

ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN®

ISSUE

68

POPULAR



BENDIS
BAGLEY
HANNA

MARVEL®

The bite of a genetically altered spider granted high school student Peter Parker incredible, arachnid-like powers: strength, agility, a spider-like sixth sense warning him of personal danger, and most amazing of all-- Peter can walk on walls. When a burglar killed his beloved Uncle Ben, a grief-stricken Peter vowed to use his amazing abilities to protect his fellow man. He learned the invaluable lesson that with great power there must also come great responsibility!

PREVIOUSLY

ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN "POPULAR"



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Now the fledgling super hero tries to balance a full high school curriculum, a night job as a web designer for the *Daily Bugle* tabloid, a friendship with the beautiful Mary Jane Watson, and swing time as the misunderstood, web-slinging Spider-Man.

Two brilliant scientists, Reed Richards and Sue Storm; Reed's best friend Ben Grimm and Sue's younger brother, Johnny pierced the barrier to the N-Zone and through a strange accident acquired fantastic powers. Reed's body stretches like a rubber band, Sue turns invisible and can make invisible force fields, Johnny lights up like a torch and can fly and Ben has turned into a super-strong, rocky thing. Though they are just starting new lives as adventurers, they do know one thing: the world will never be the same.

Previously in Ultimate Spider-Man:

Peter Parker is still reeling from the violent death of his friend Gwen Stacy at the hands of Carnage, a genetic monstrosity half cloned from Peter's DNA. Elsewhere in Manhattan...

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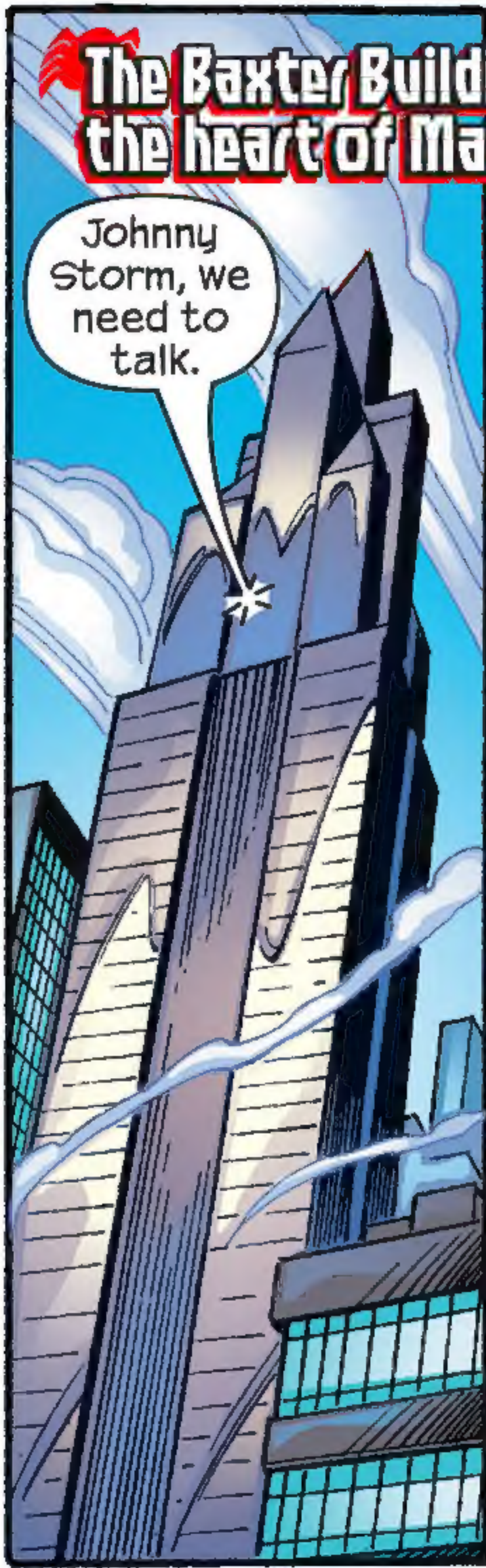
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The Baxter Building, right in the heart of Manhattan

Johnny Storm, we need to talk.

Whadidido?

You didn't do anything, but Reed and I were talking to Dad...

Uh-oh...

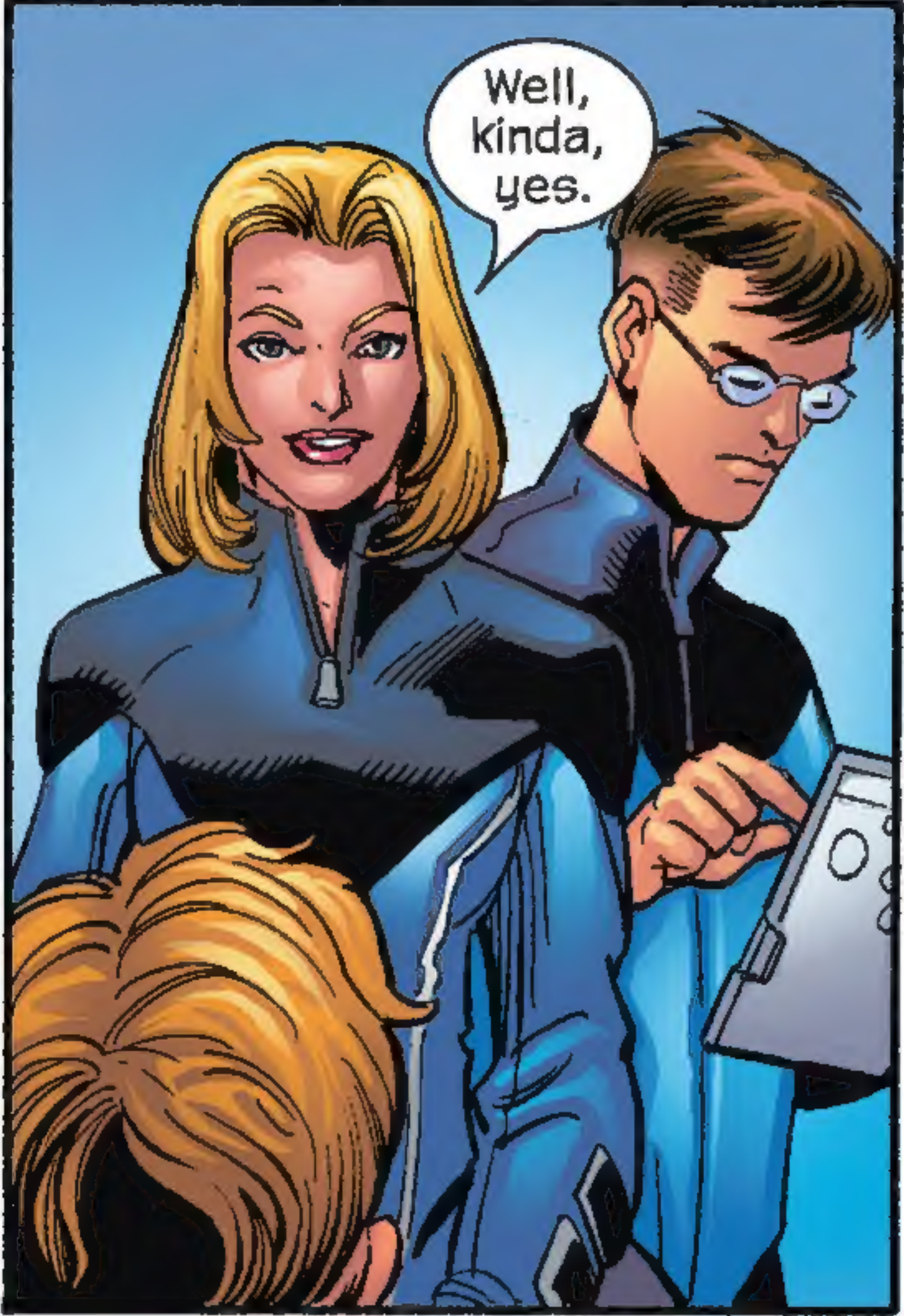
While we work on our experiments you and Ben are just sitting around here playing video games and eating...

I know, it's a good plan.

... and we think you need to get your high-school diploma.



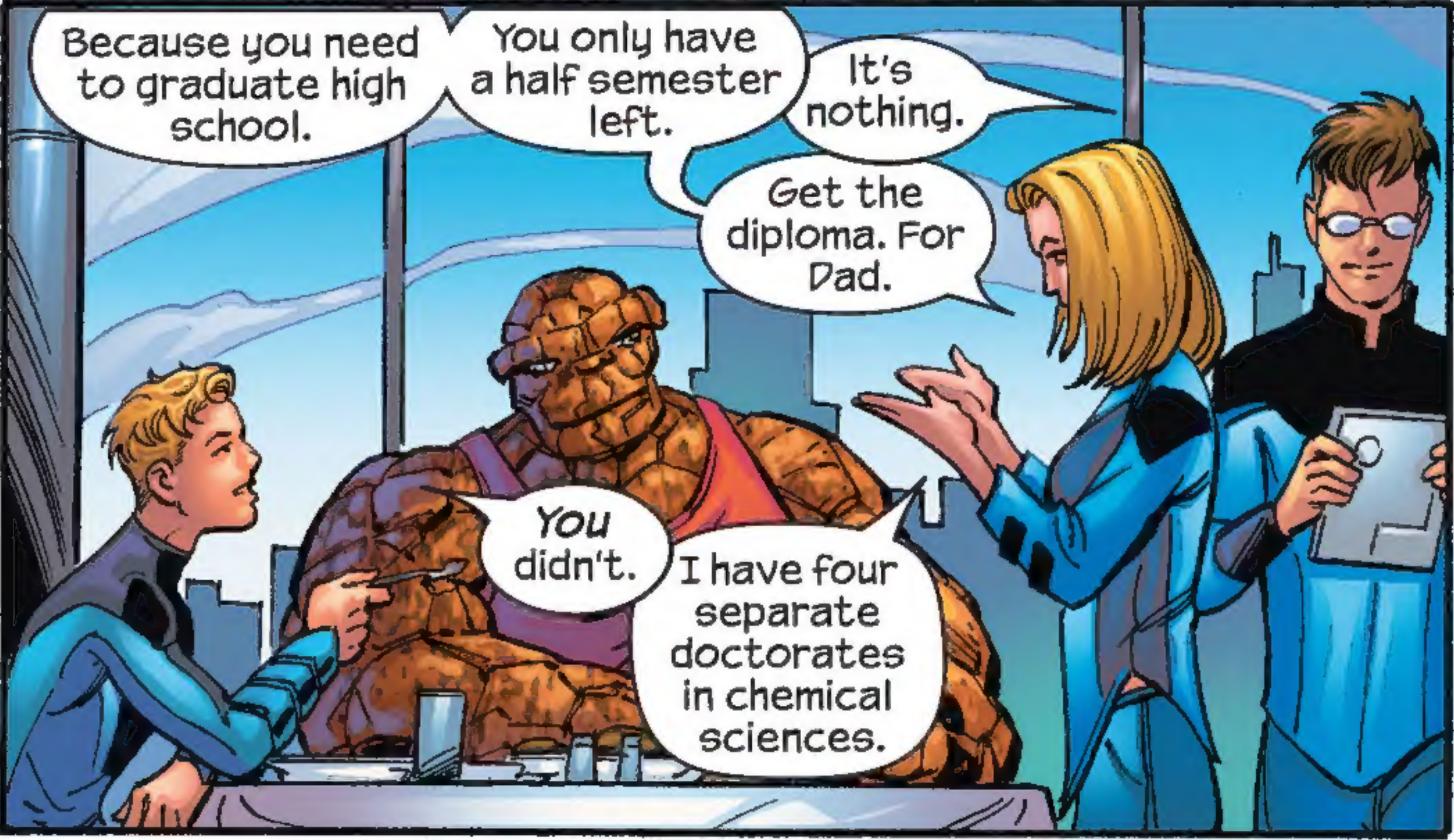
Right this second?



Well, kinda, yes.



Um, why?



Because you need to graduate high school.

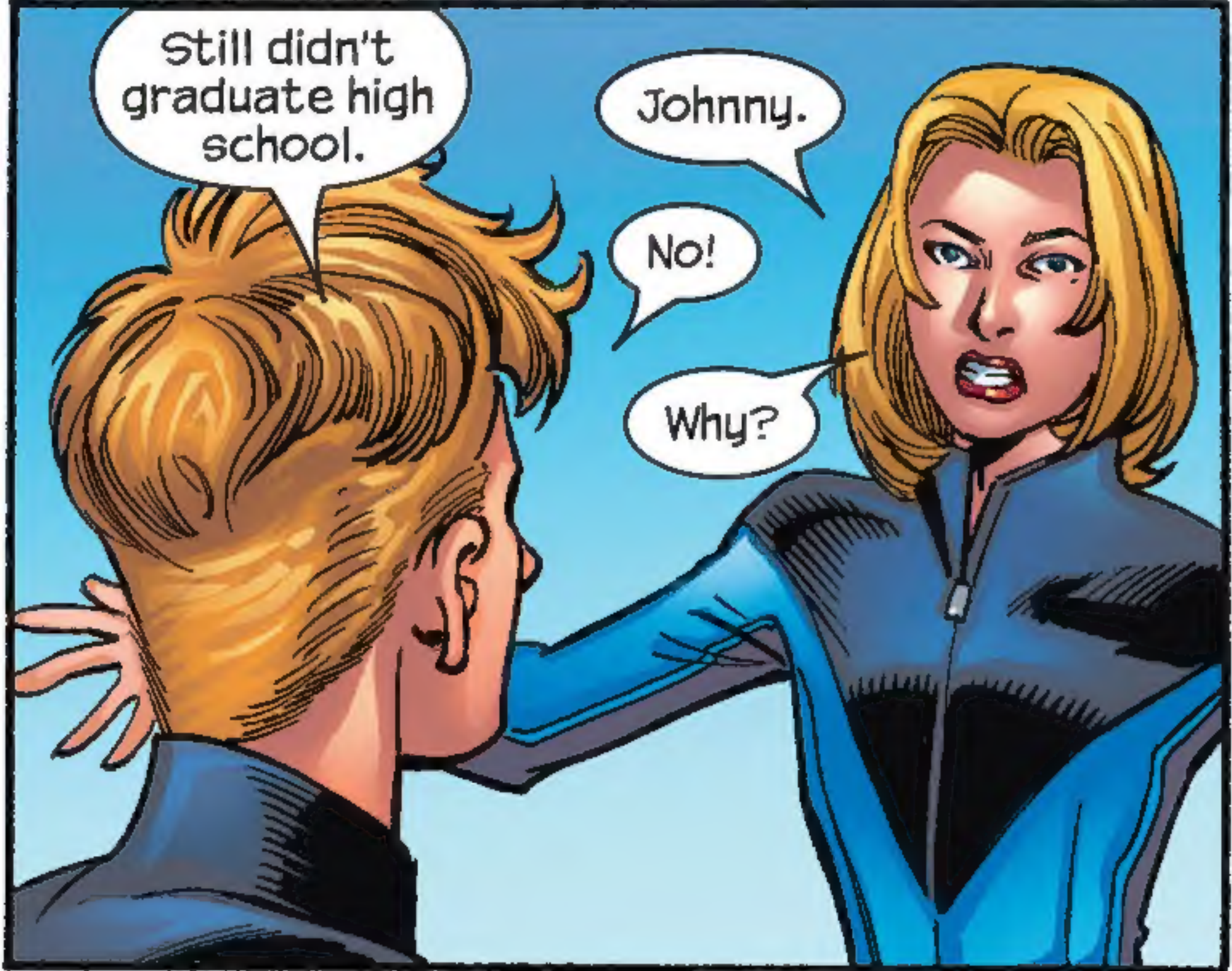
You only have a half semester left.

It's nothing.

Get the diploma. For Dad.

You didn't.

I have four separate doctorates in chemical sciences.

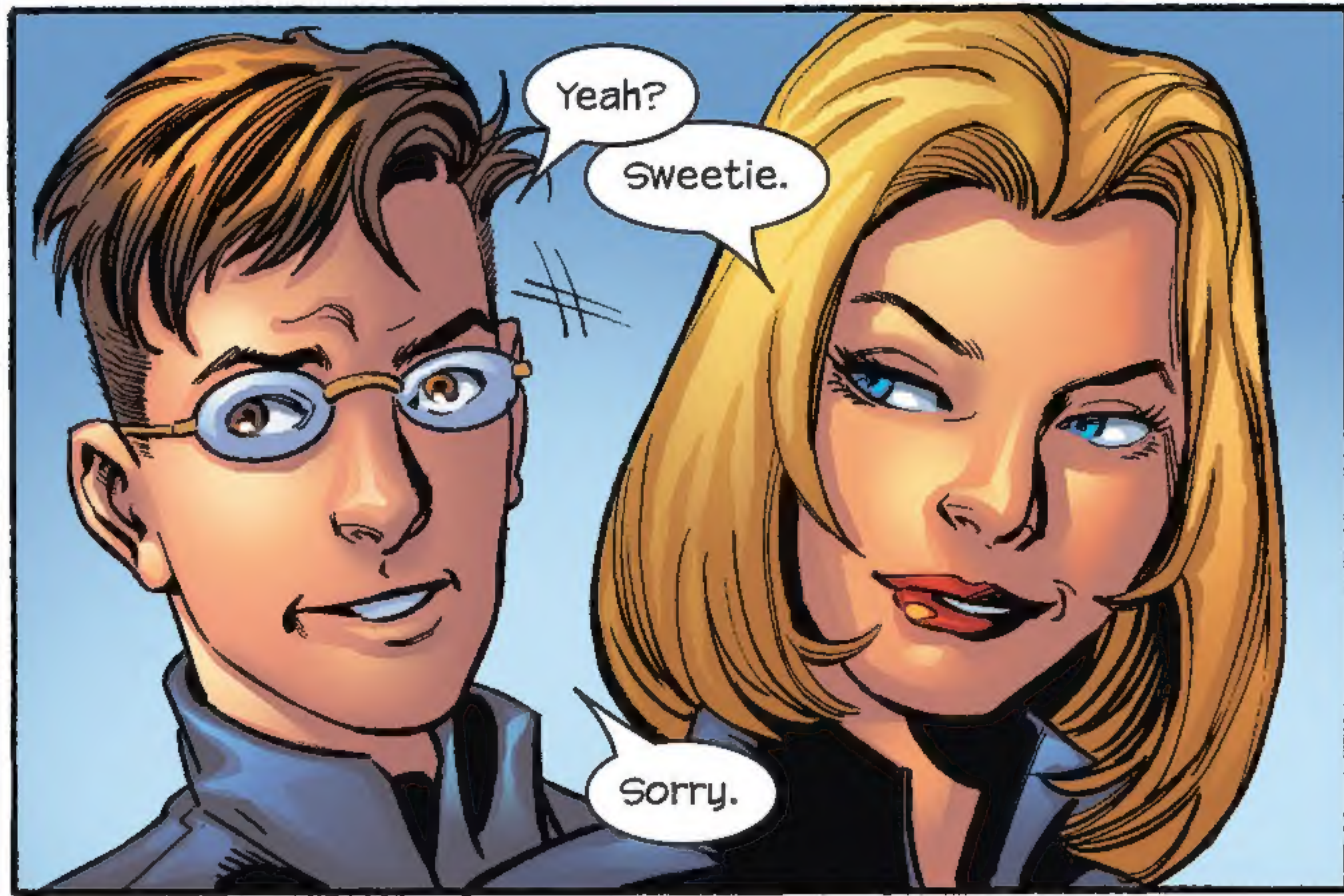


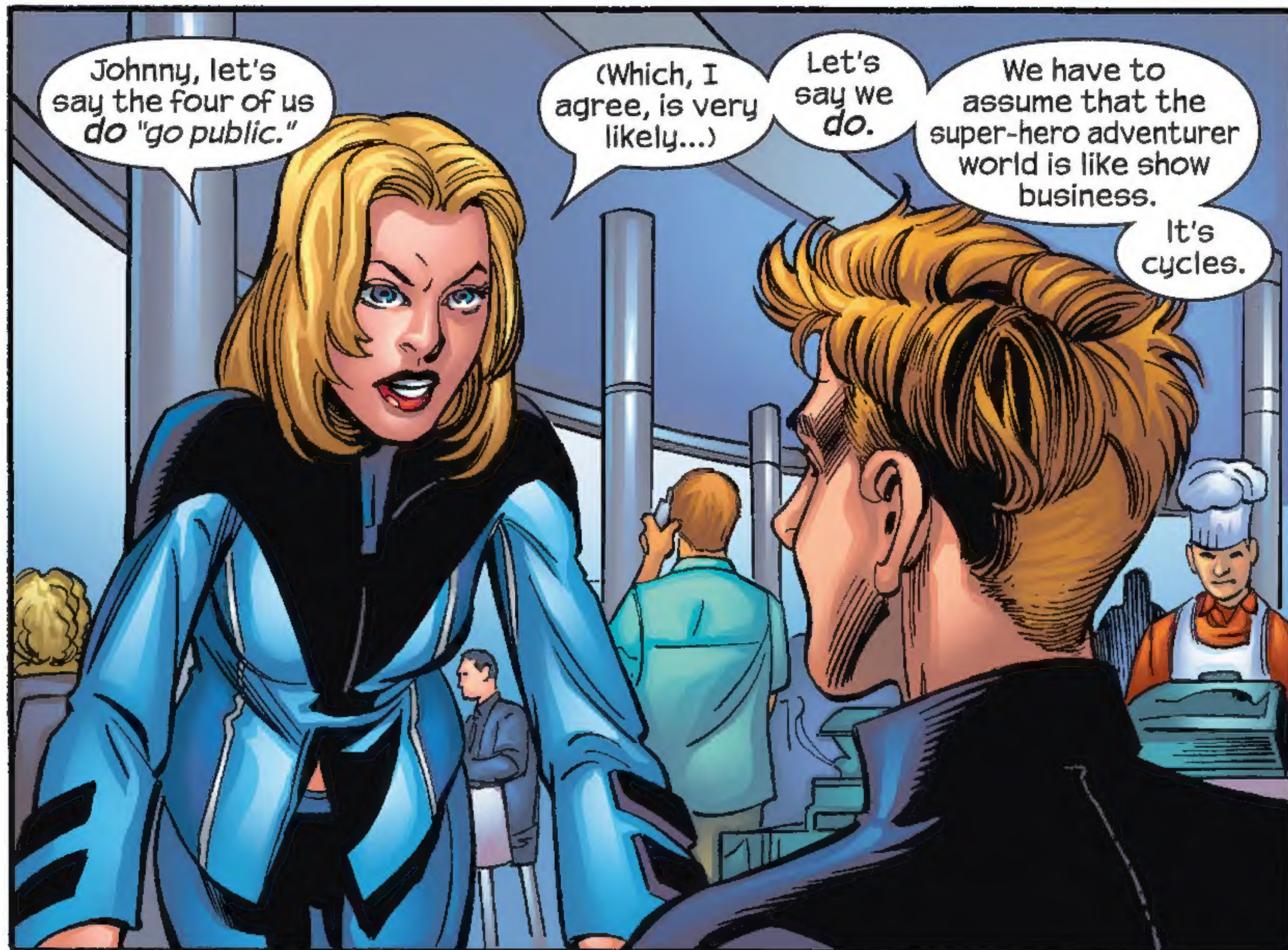
Still didn't graduate high school.

Johnny.

No!

Why?





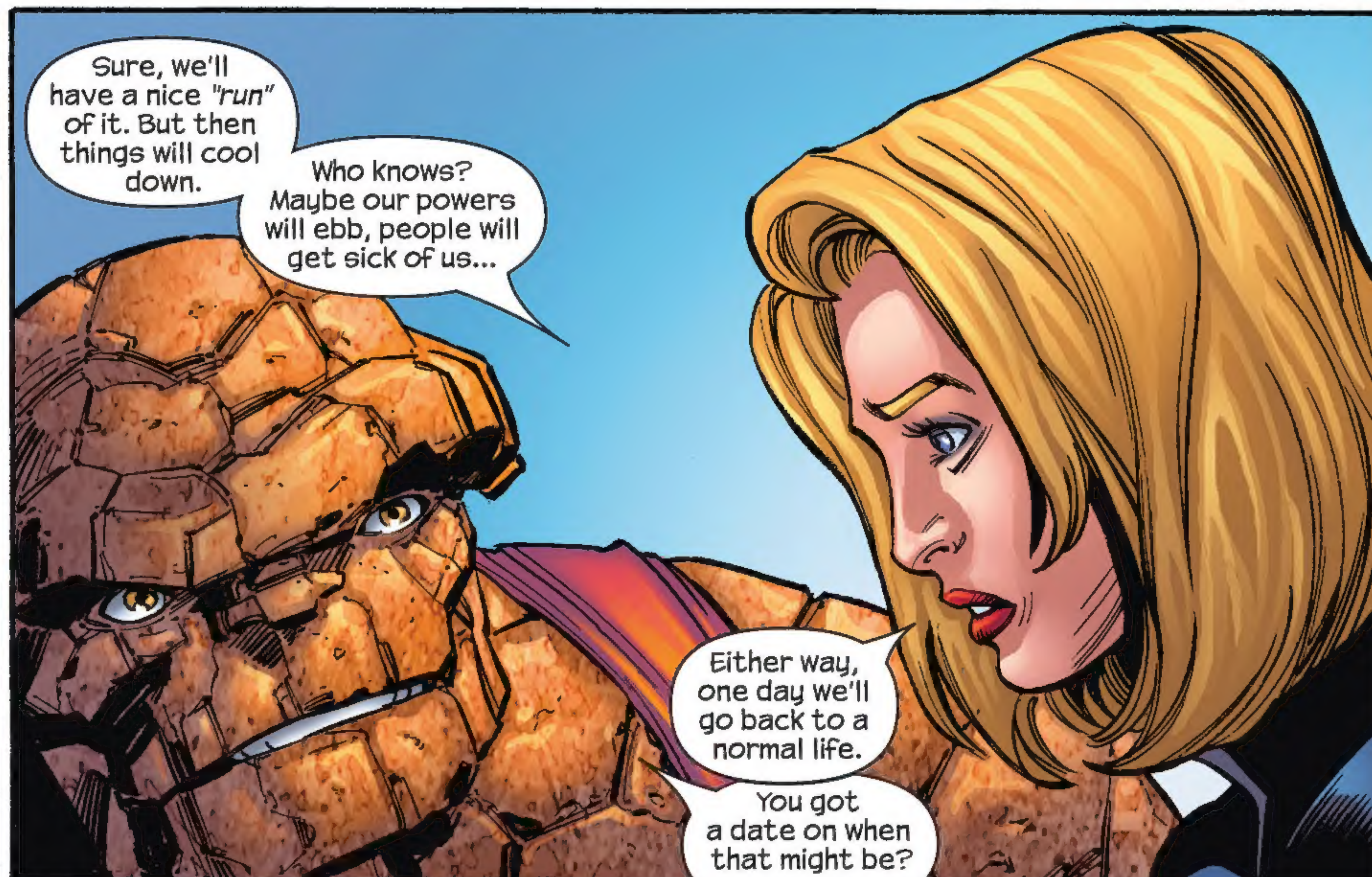
Johnny, let's say the four of us do "go public."

(Which, I agree, is very likely...)

Let's say we do.

We have to assume that the super-hero adventurer world is like show business.

It's cycles.

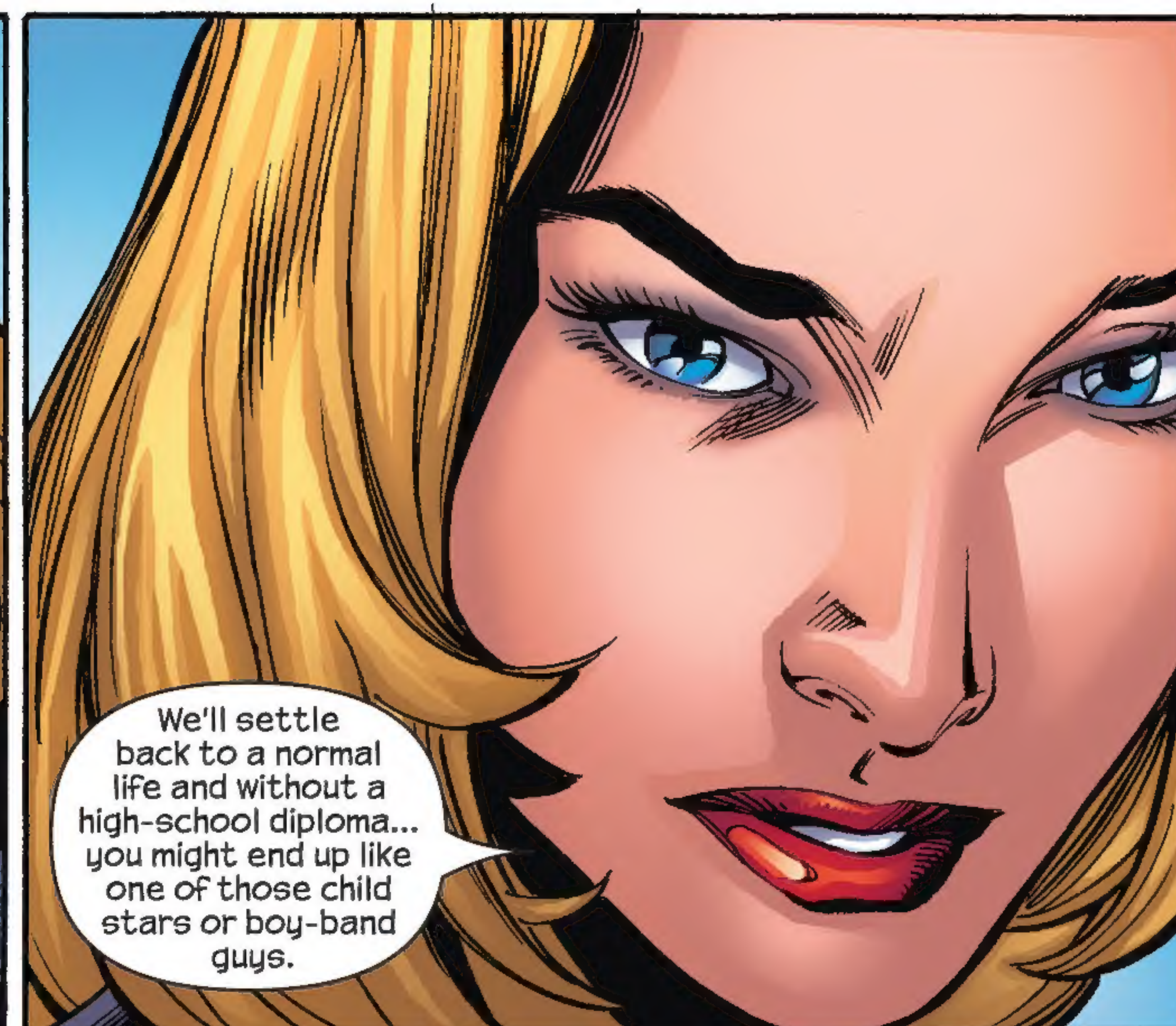


Sure, we'll have a nice "run" of it. But then things will cool down.

Who knows? Maybe our powers will ebb, people will get sick of us...

Either way, one day we'll go back to a normal life.

You got a date on when that might be?



We'll settle back to a normal life and without a high-school diploma... you might end up like one of those child stars or boy-band guys.



Boy band? Child actors? Do you know what they have that I don't?

A lifetime membership to Hottieville.



You're talking like this to make me angry.

Yes.

You're going to finish high school. Dad said we don't go public until you do.

Are you serious?

Reed and I can do home-schooling or--



Uh... what?



No!

No, if I gotta go back to high school, I'm going back to high school.

High-school hotties.

Exactly.

Ben!

Sorry.

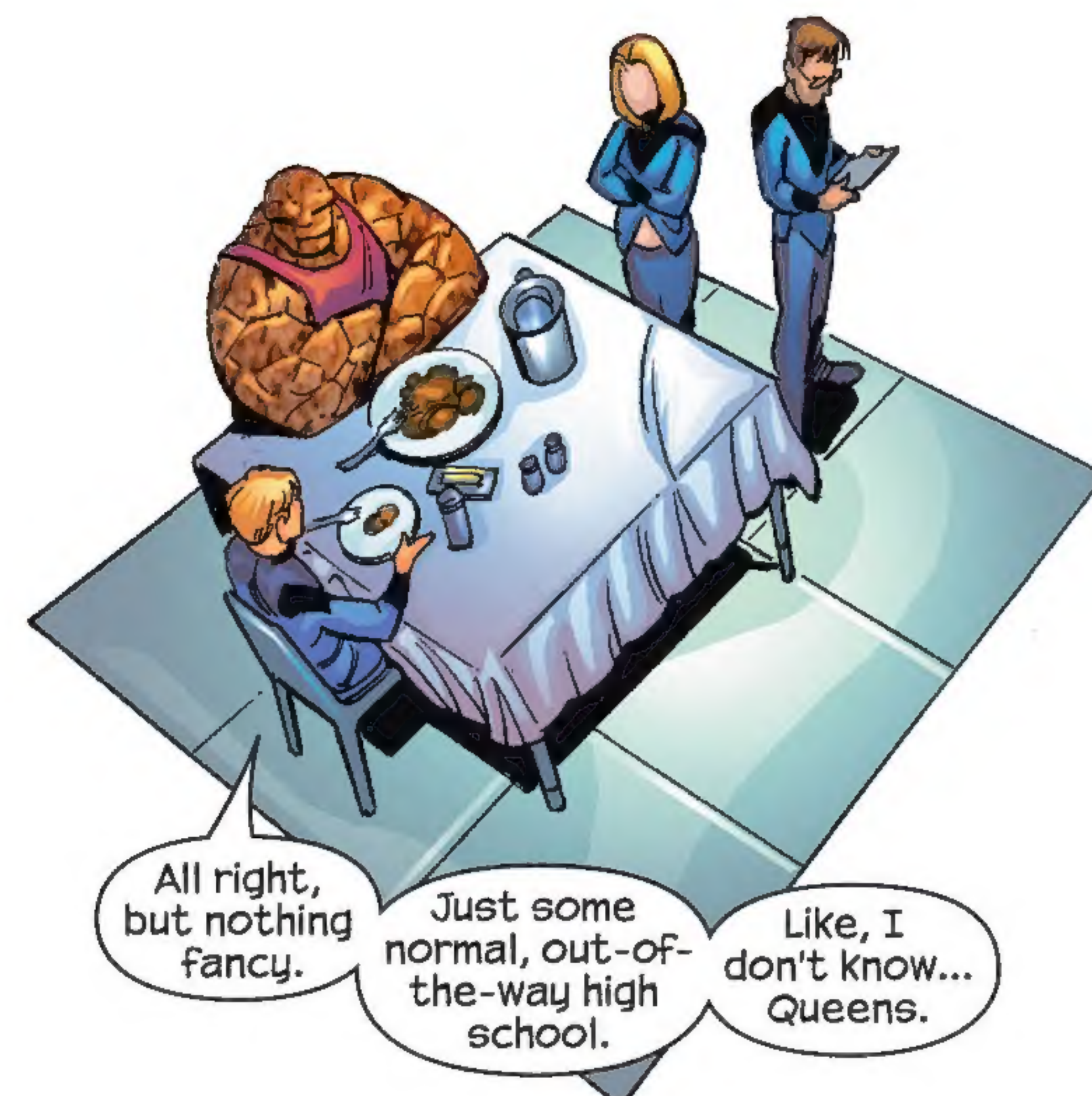
You can't go back to P.S. 440, there'll be too many questions.



Go to school.

Go to school.

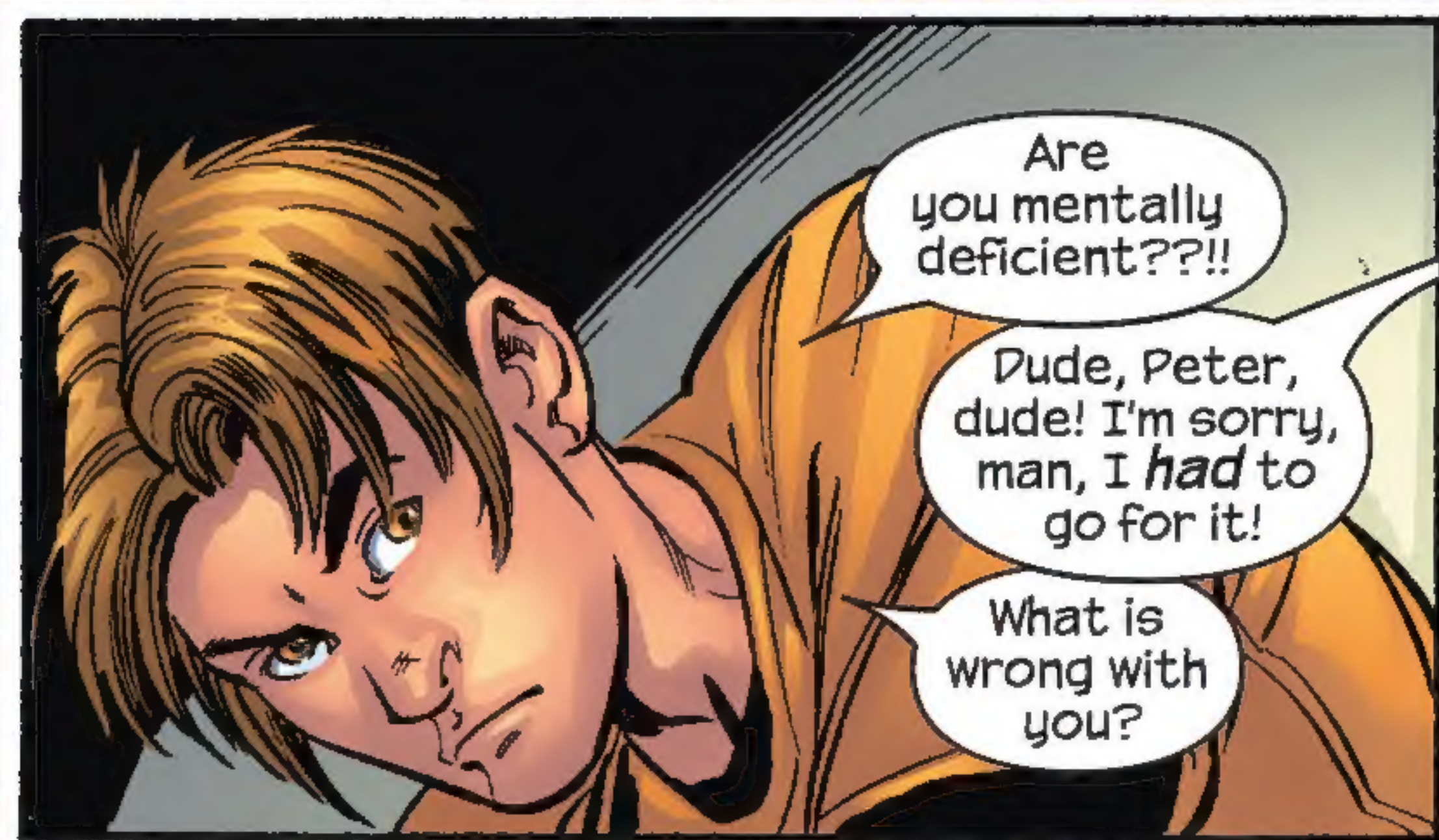
Go to school.



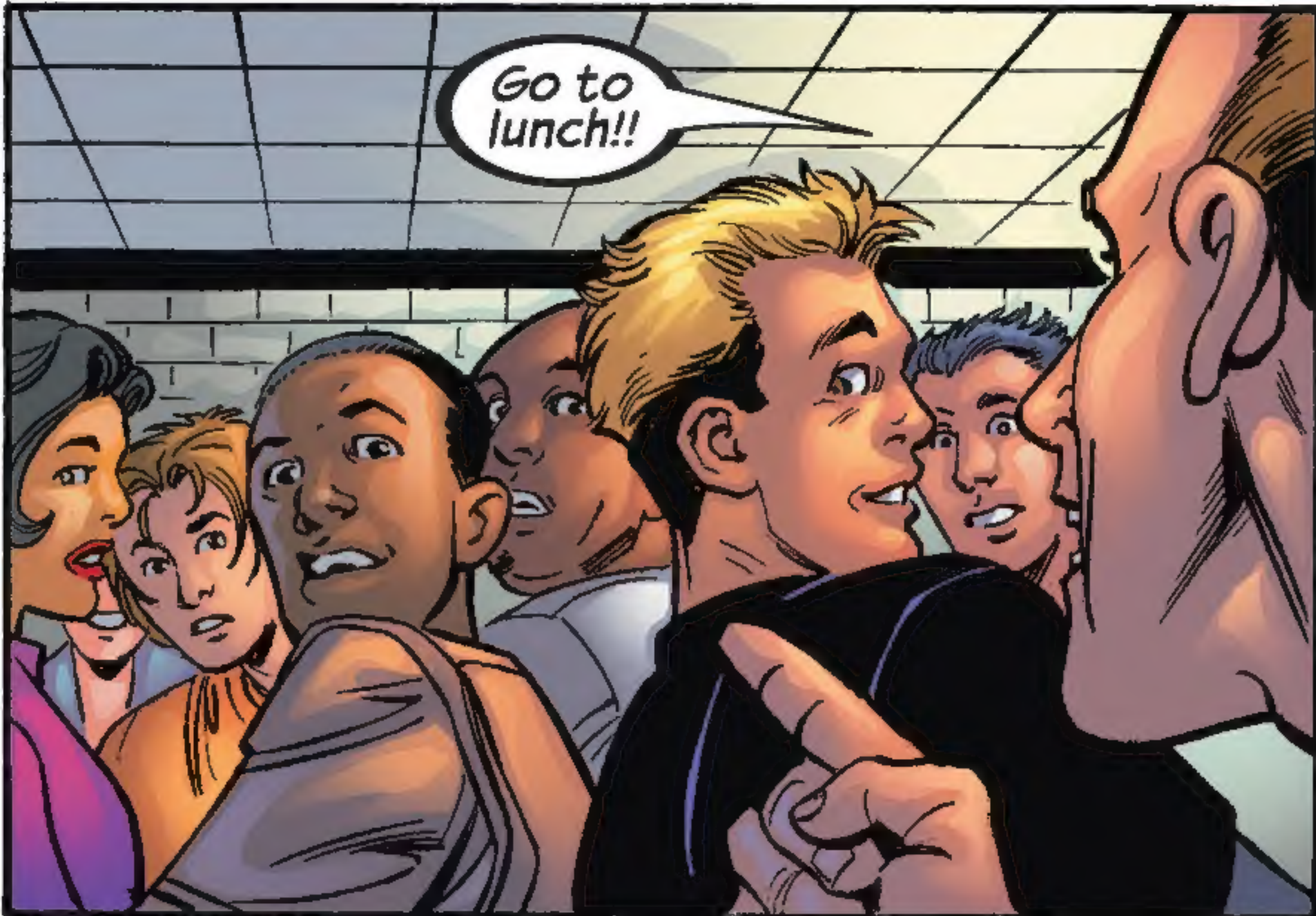
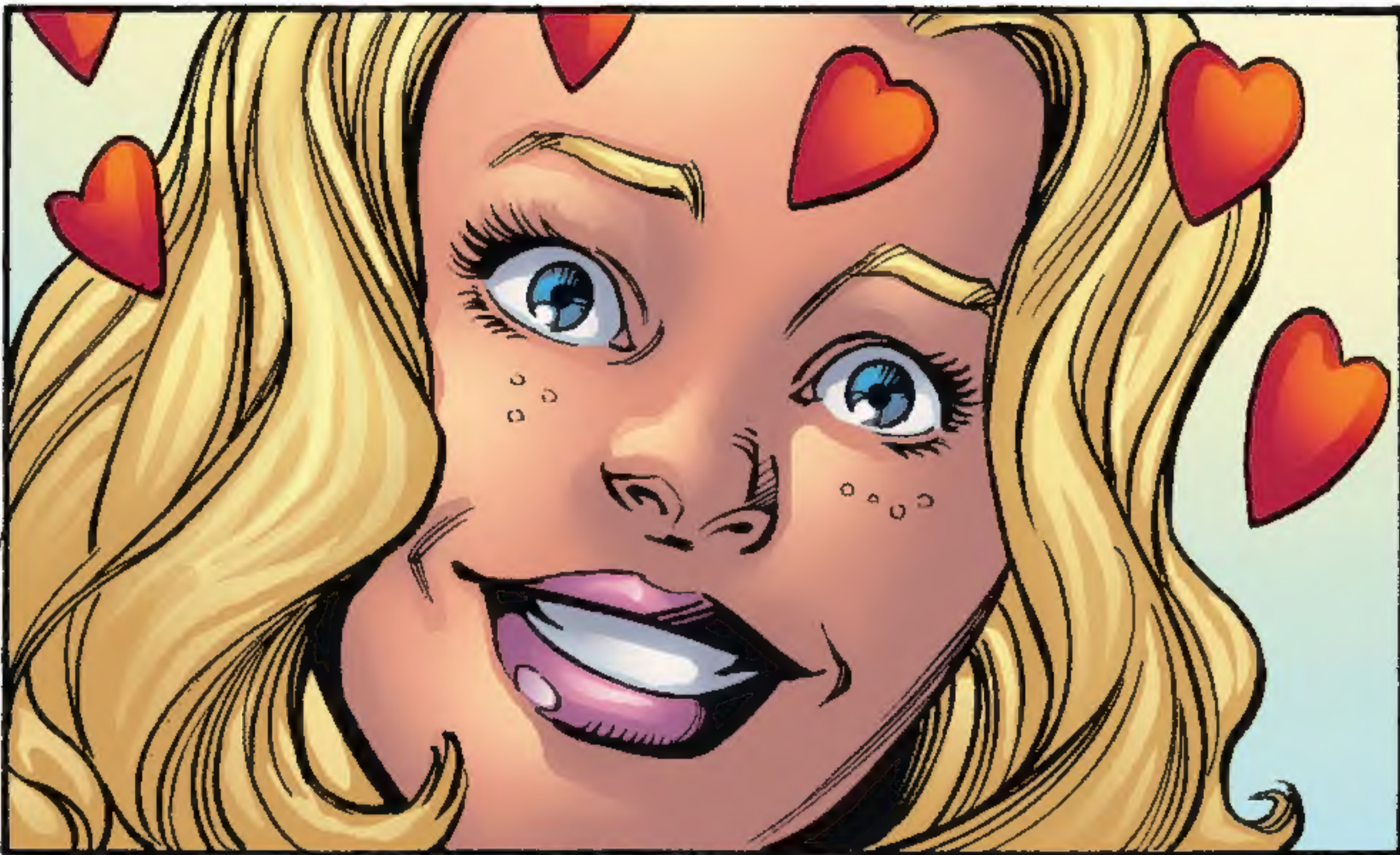
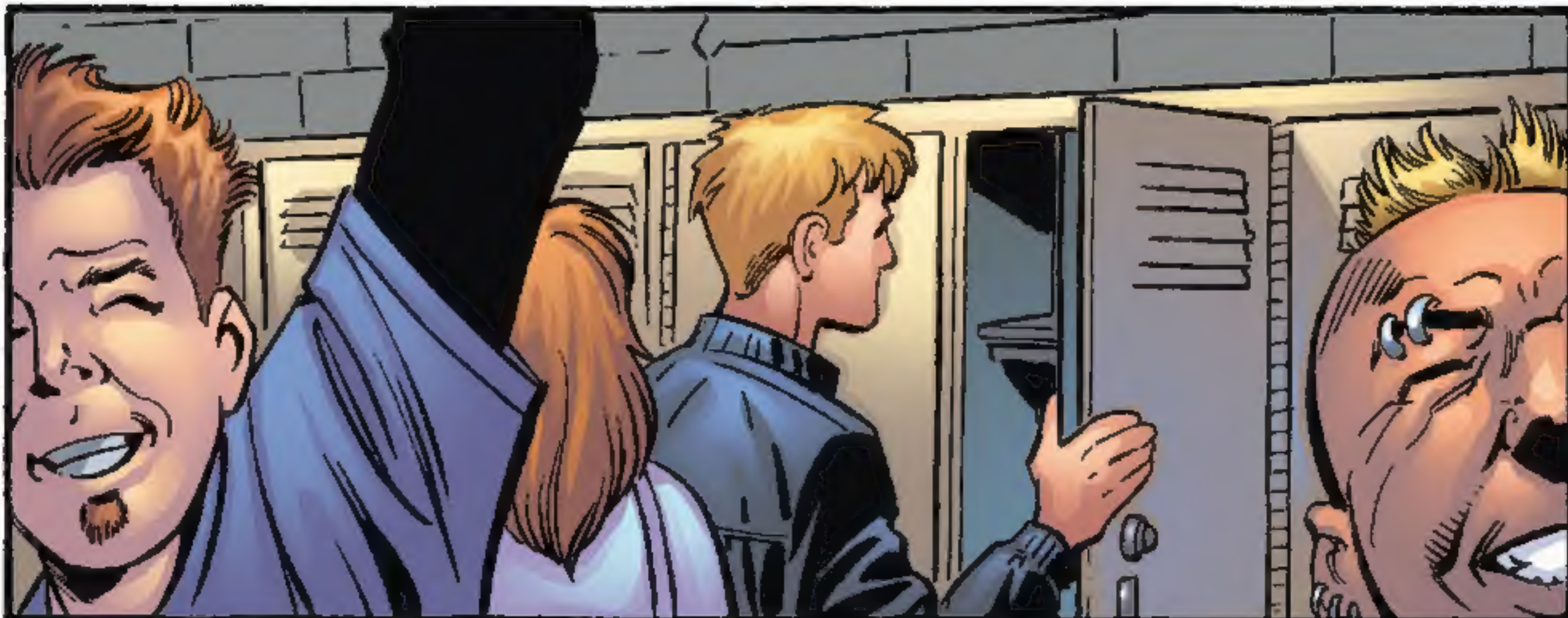
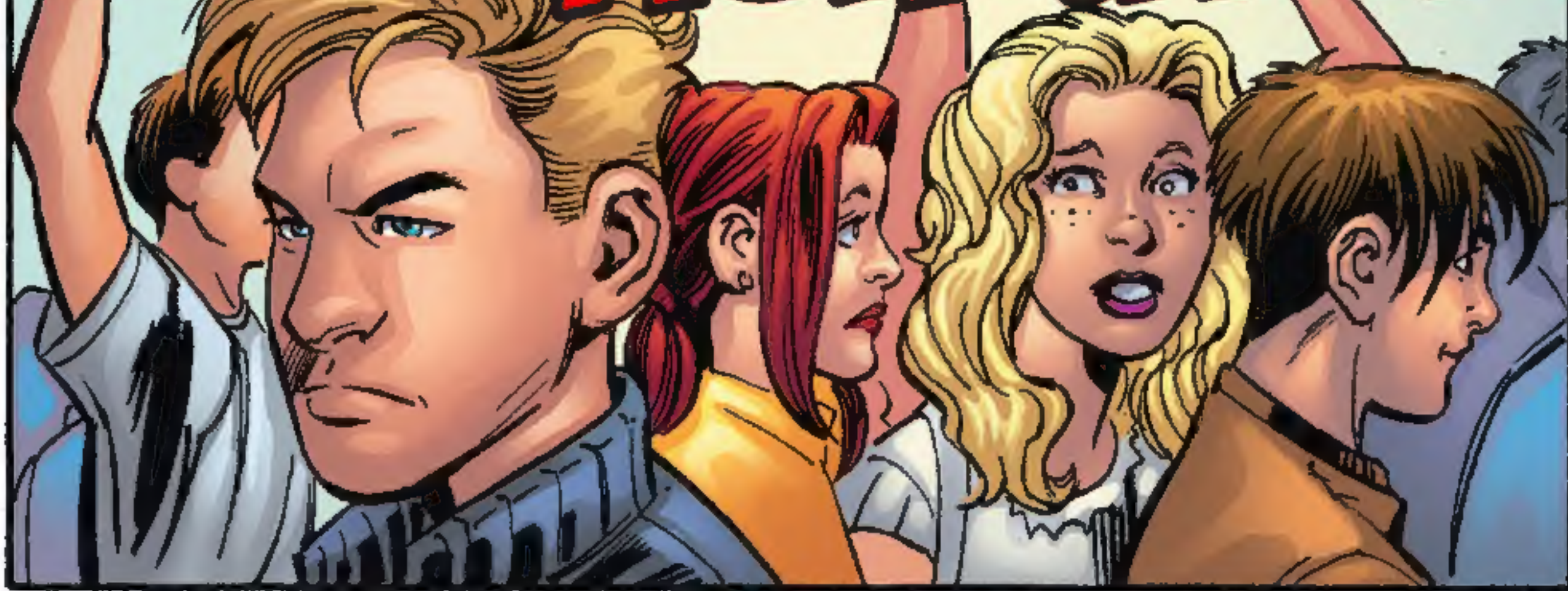
All right, but nothing fancy.

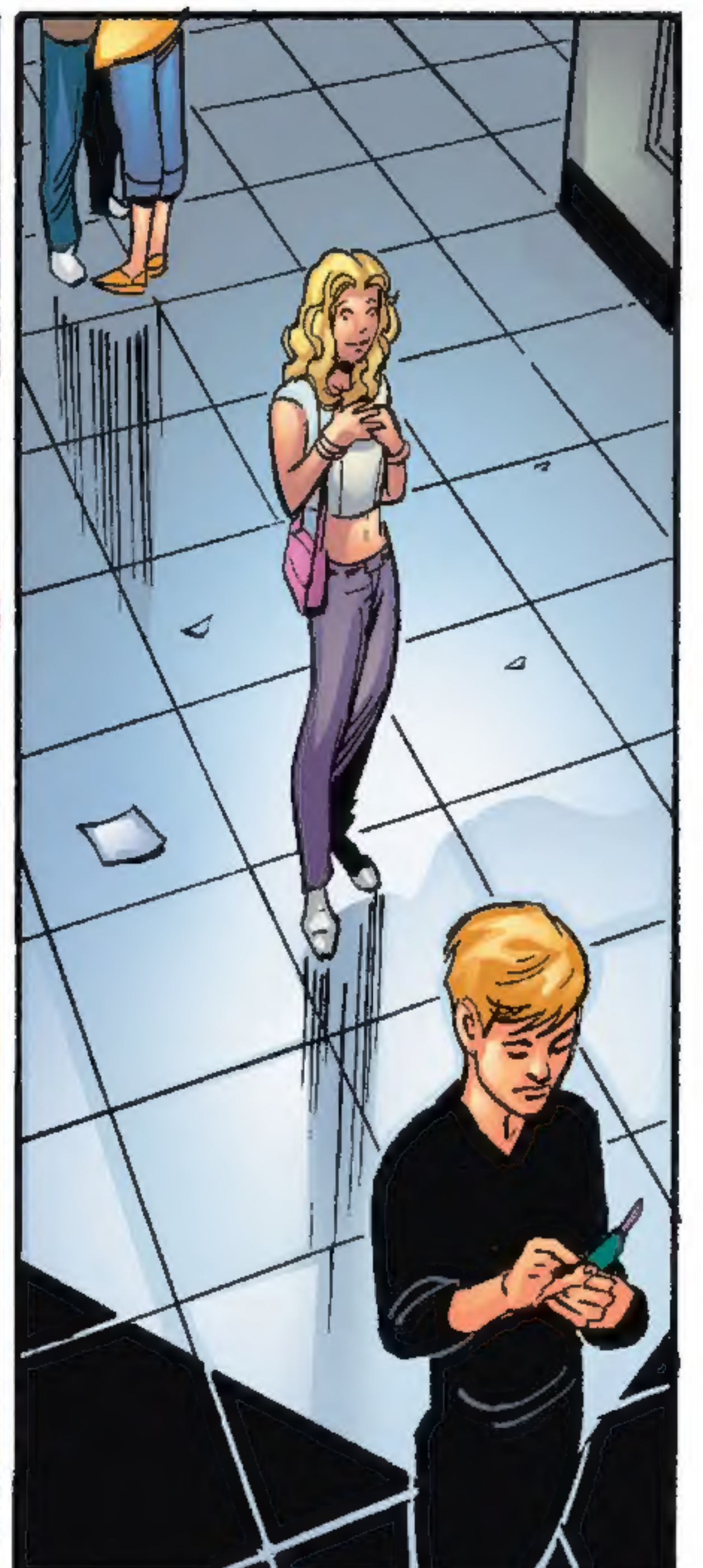
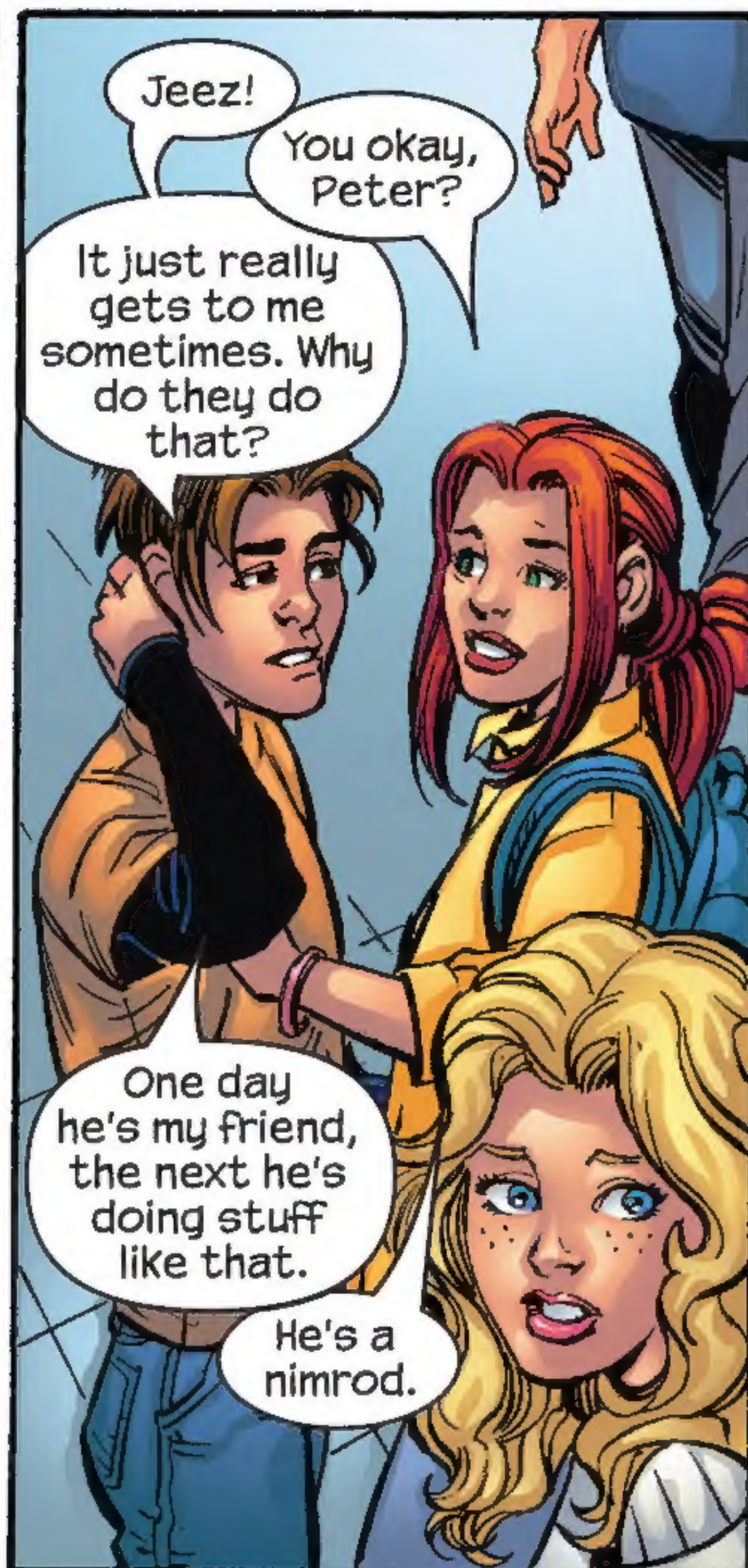
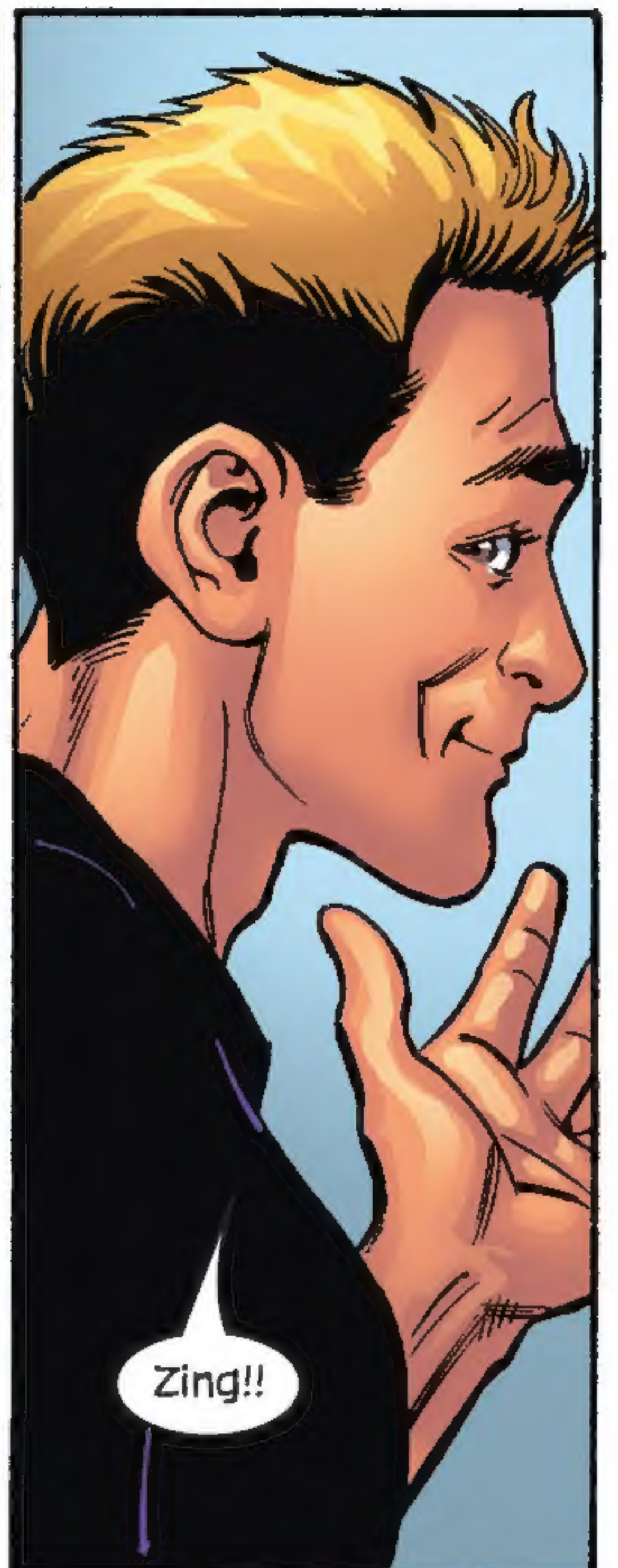
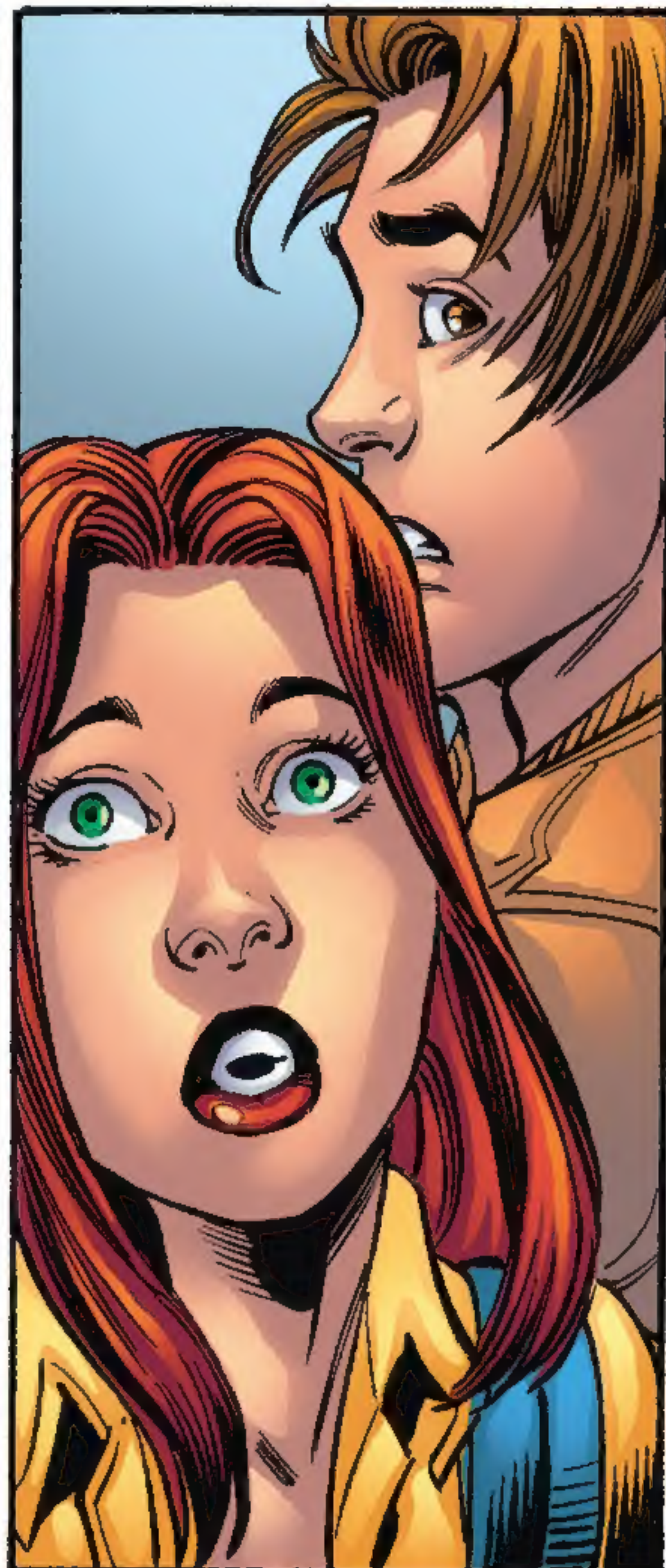
Just some normal, out-of-the-way high school.

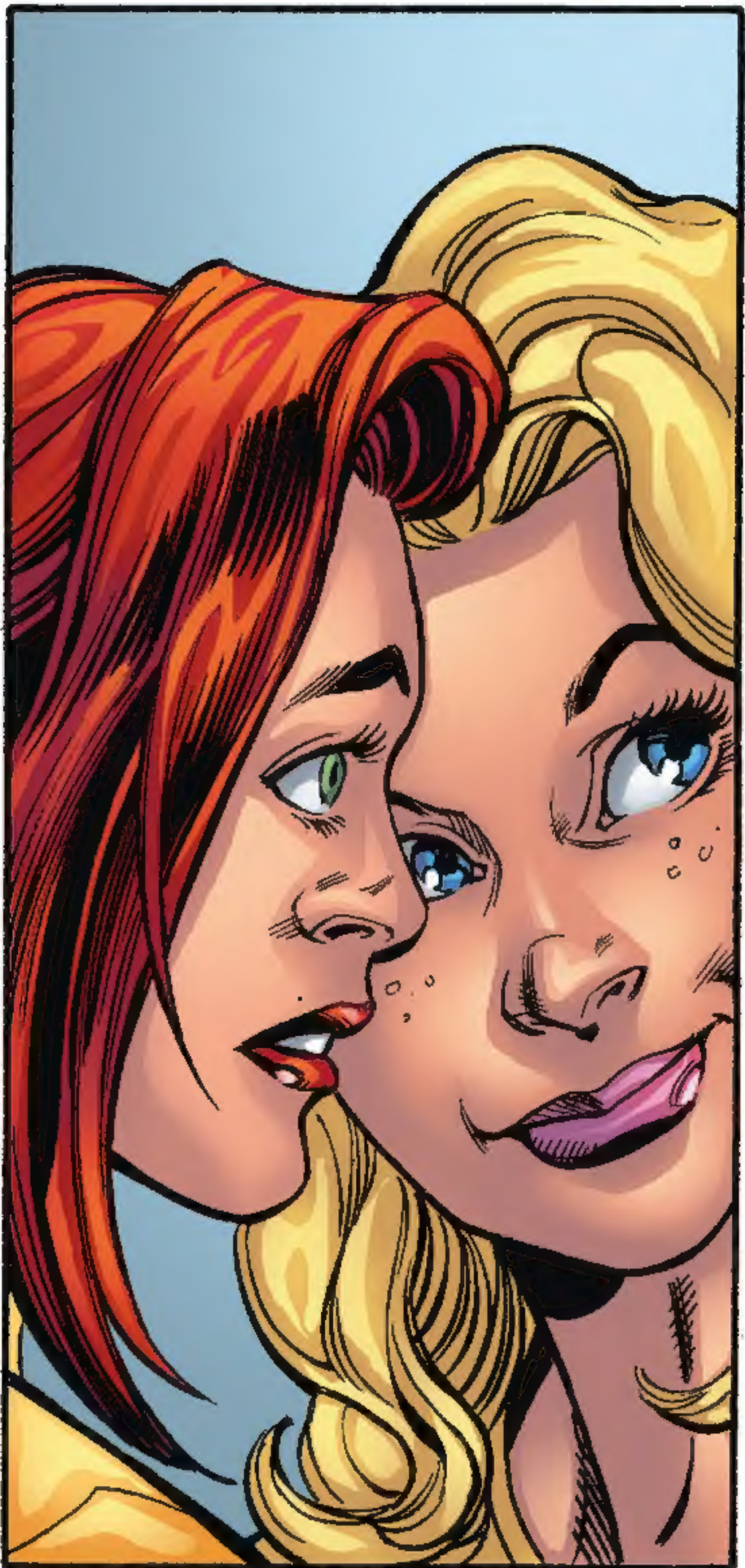
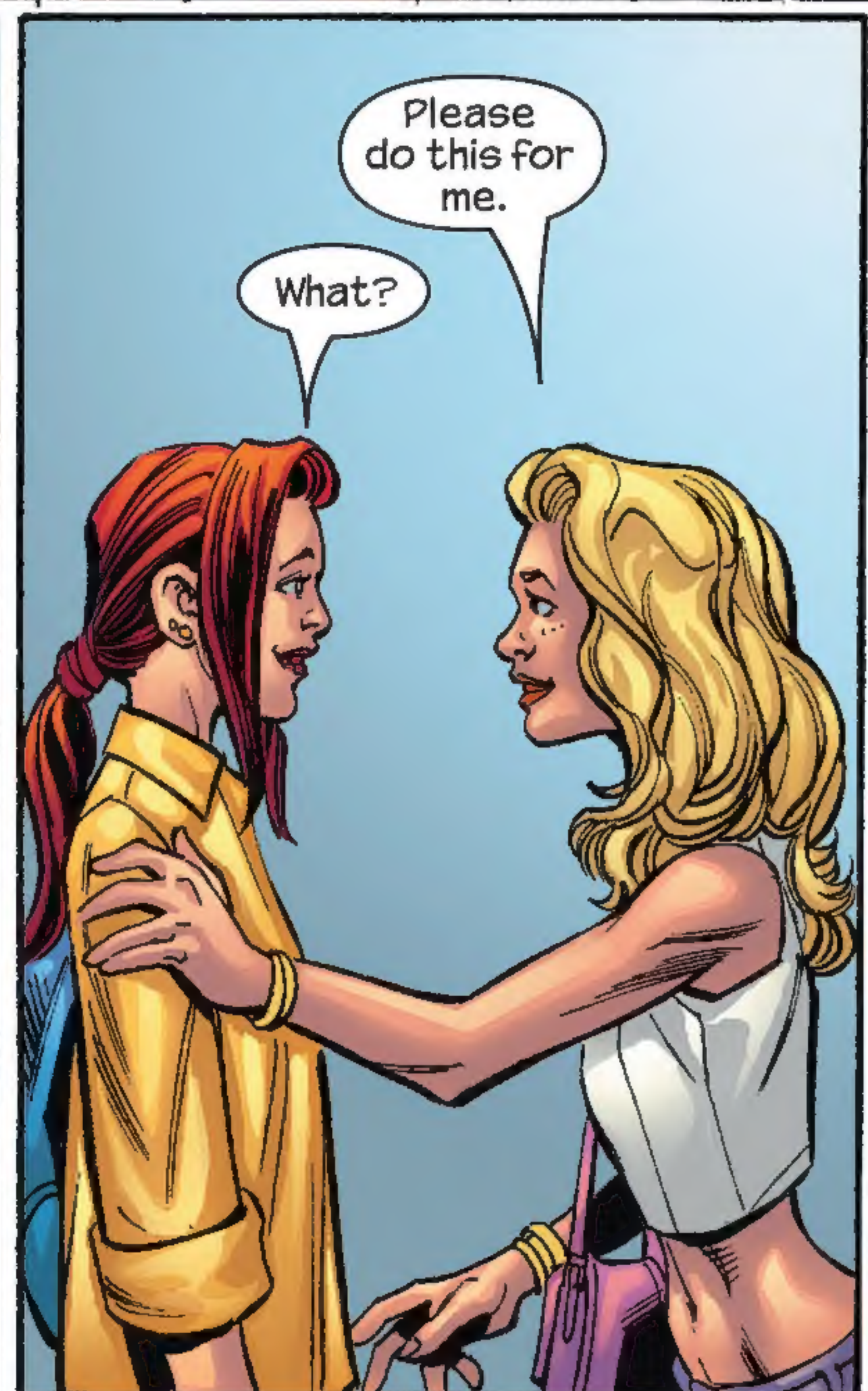
Like, I don't know... Queens.

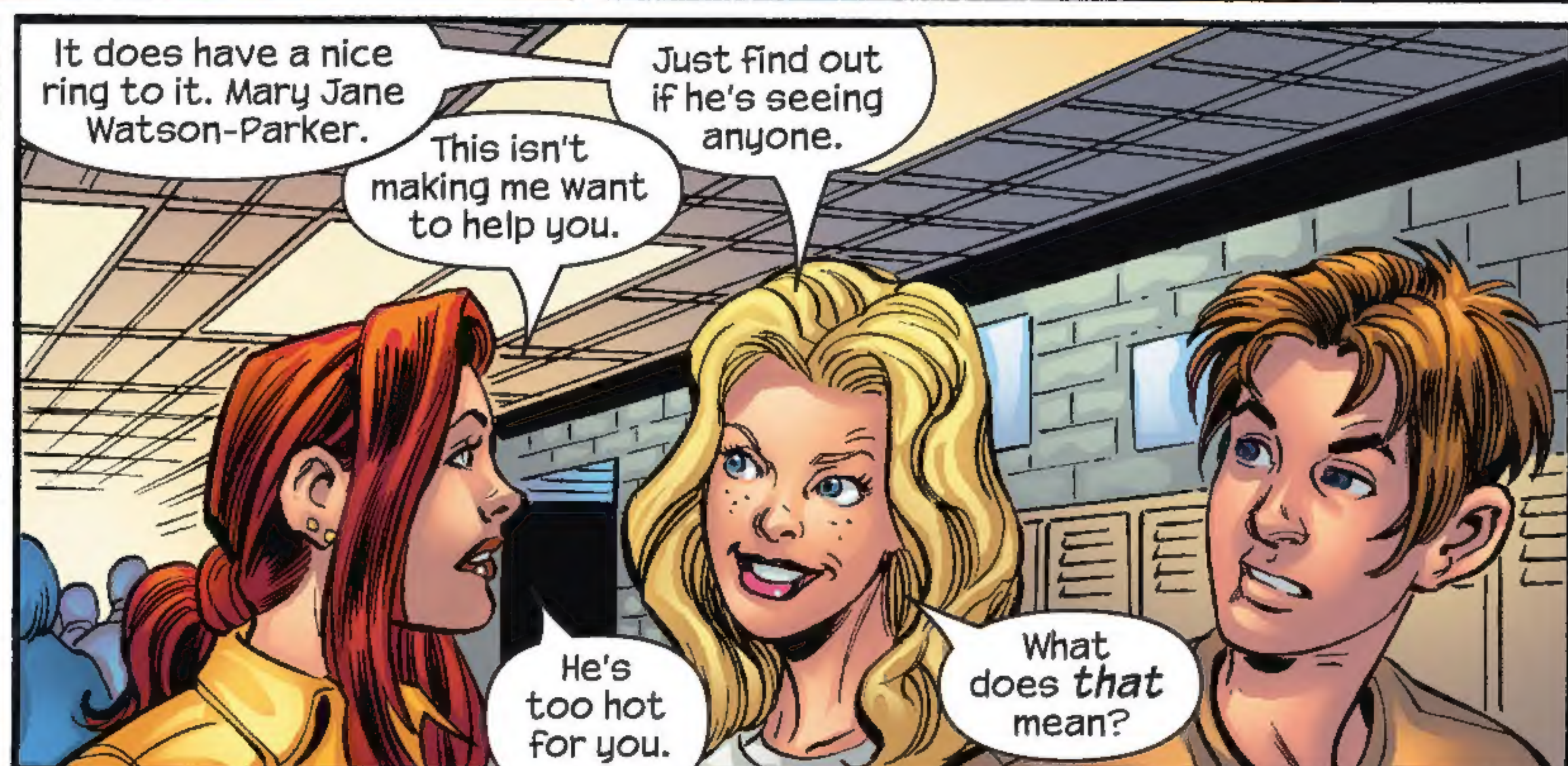


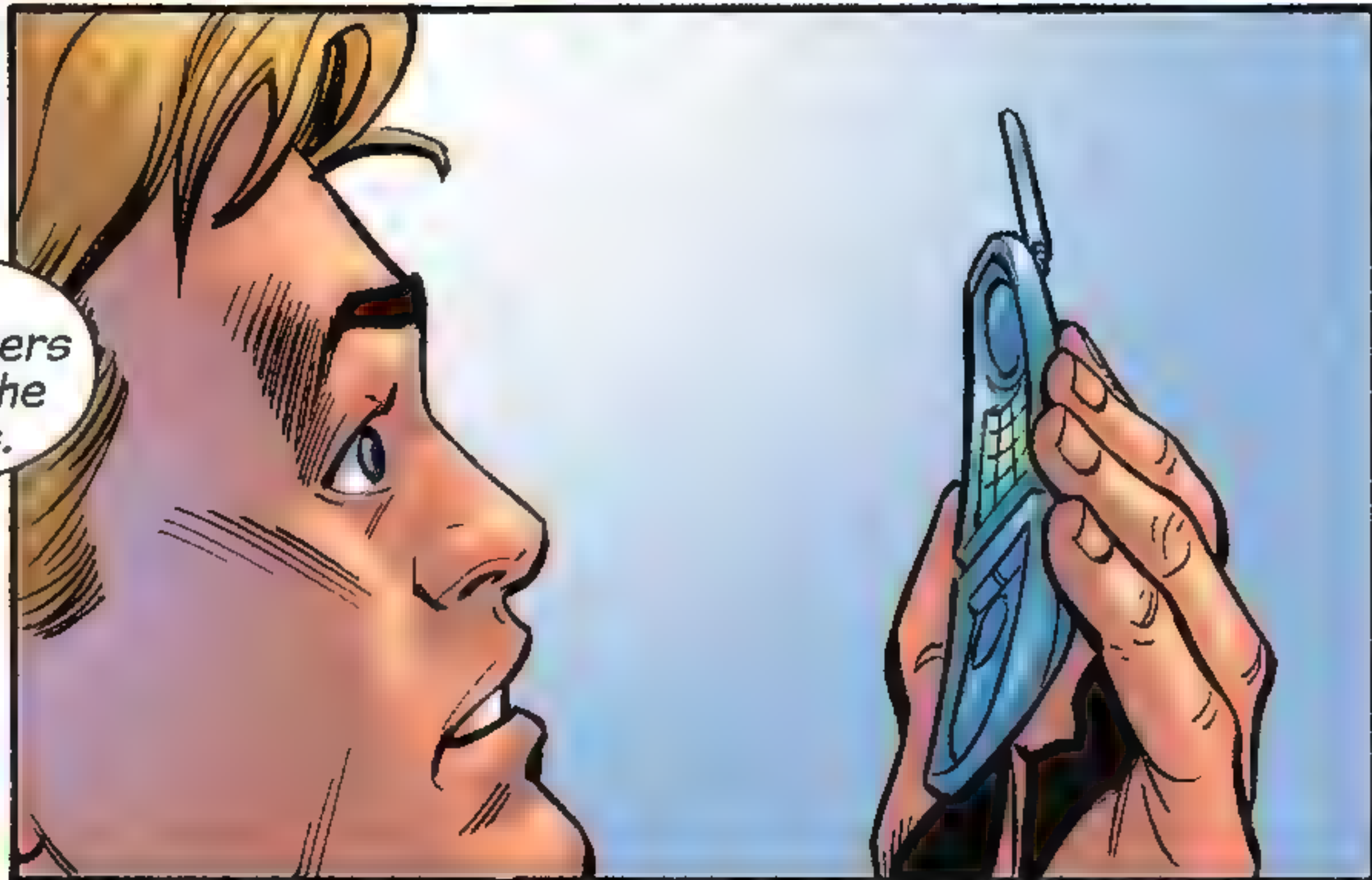
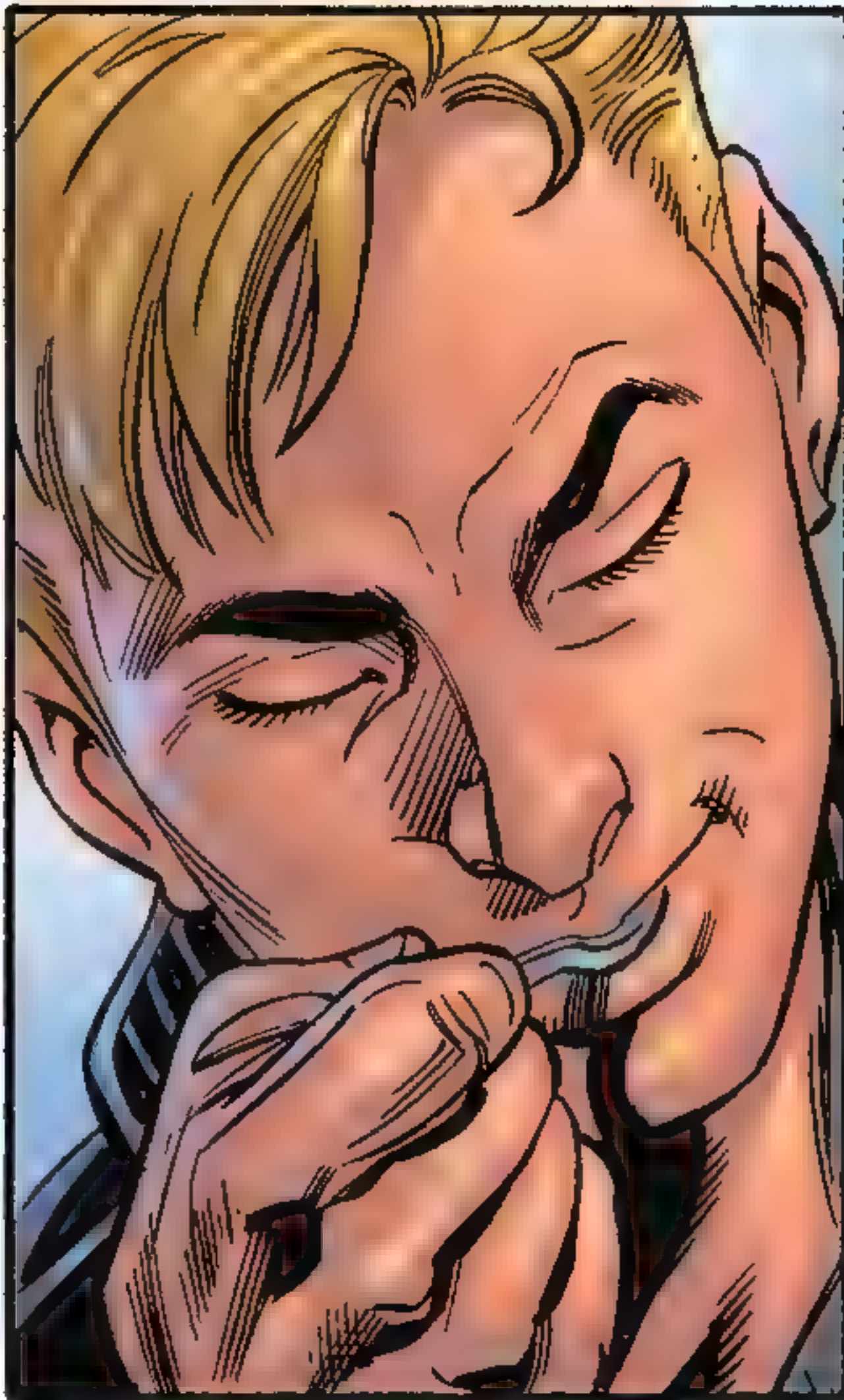
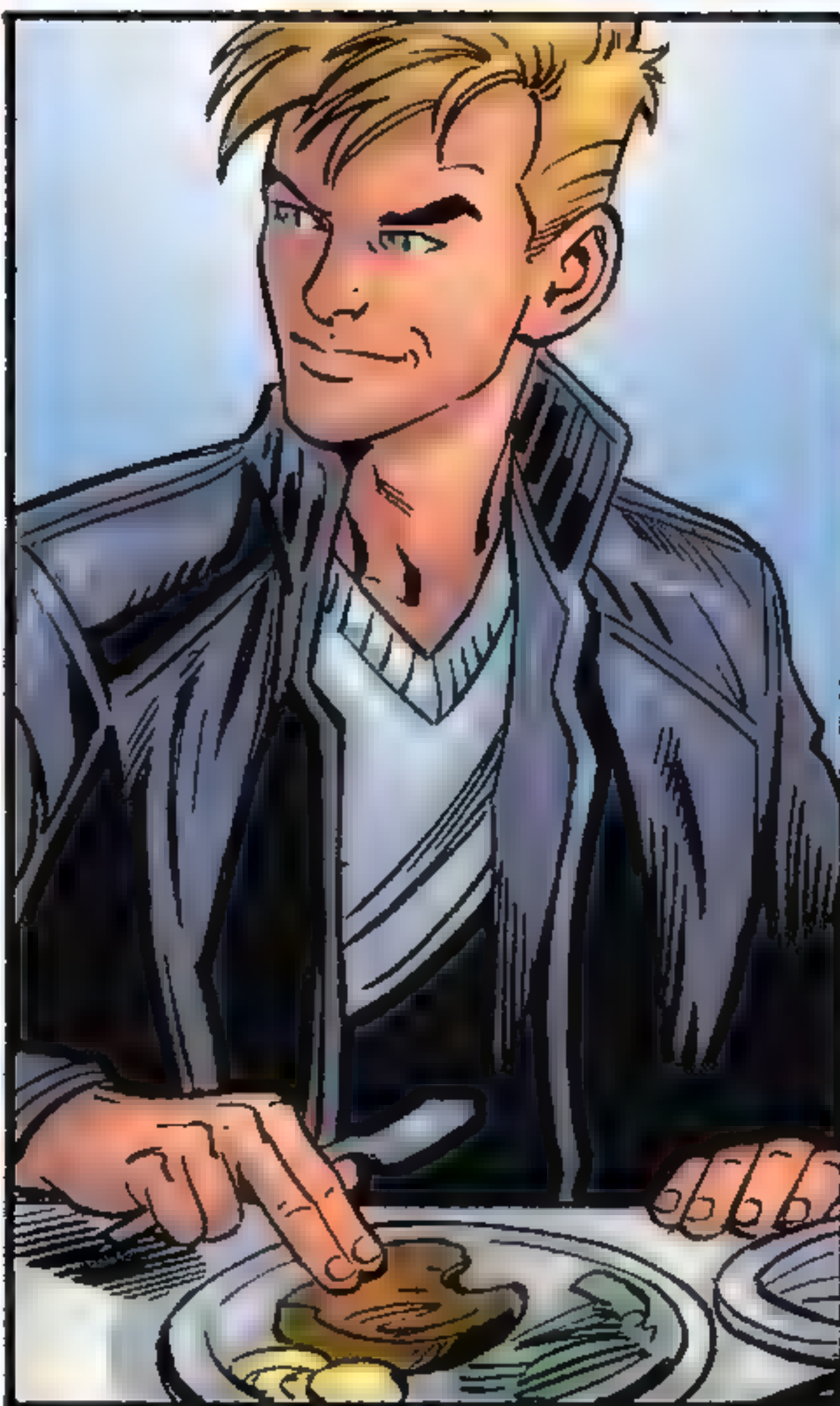
FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT! FIGHT!

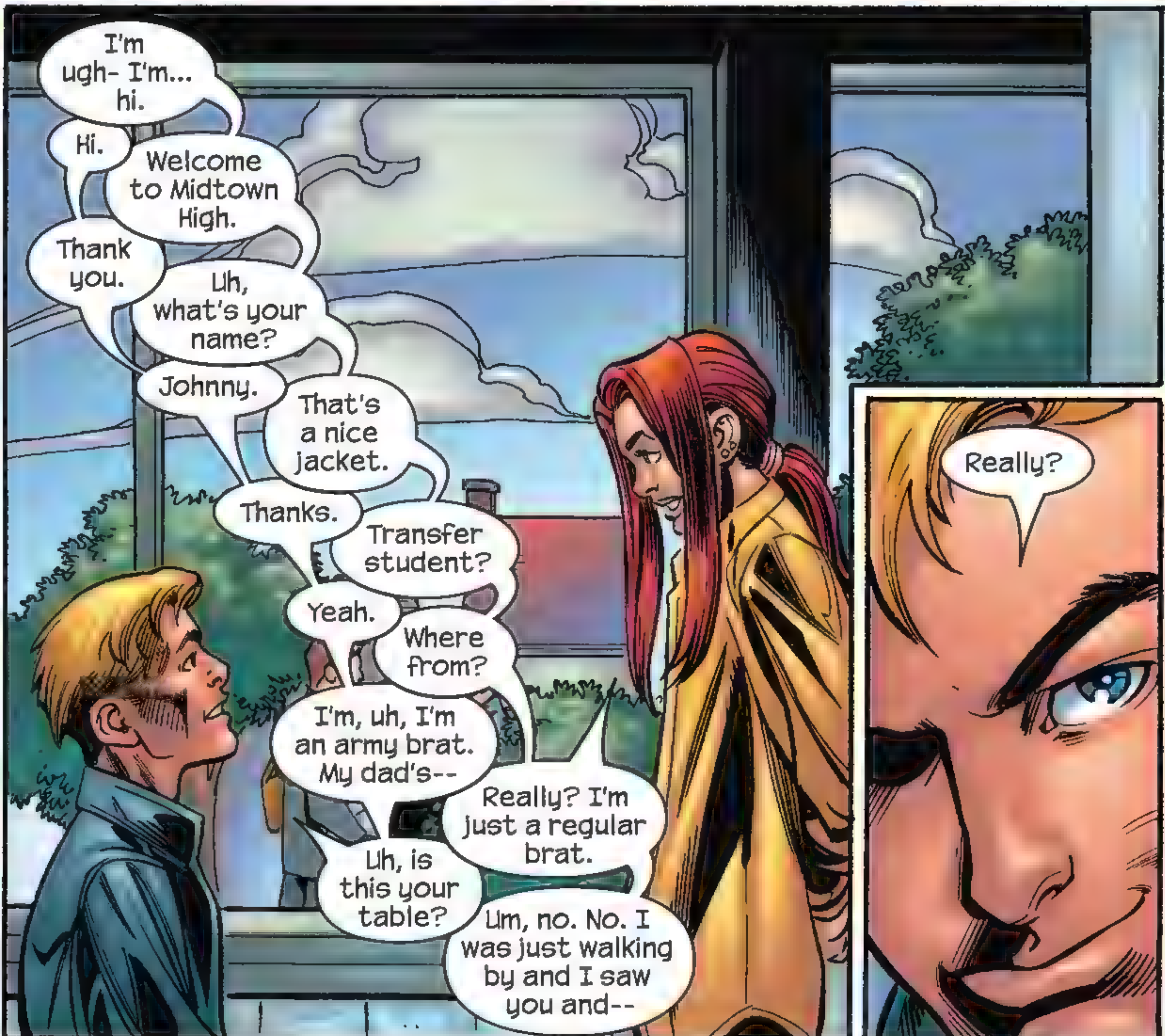
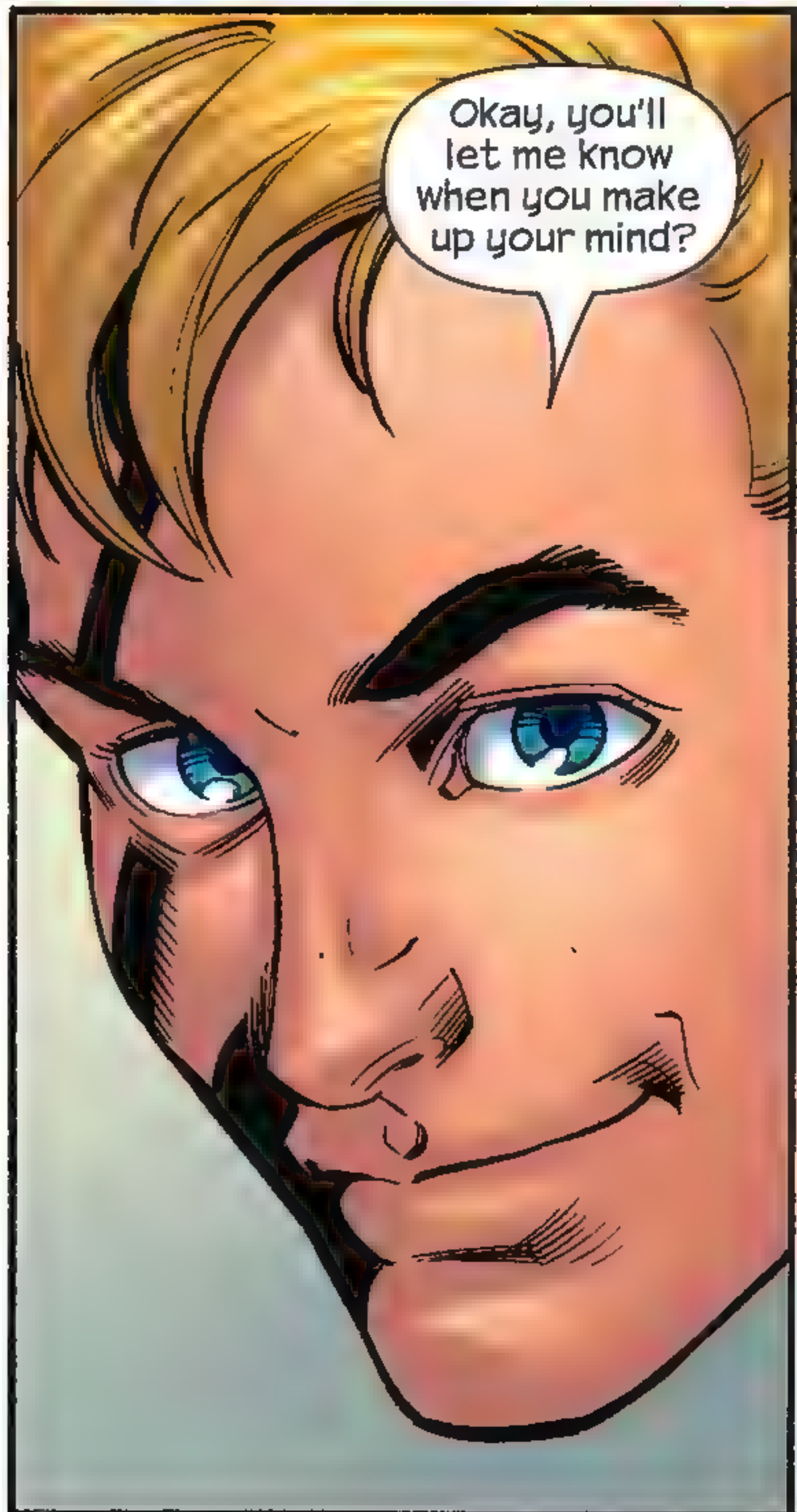
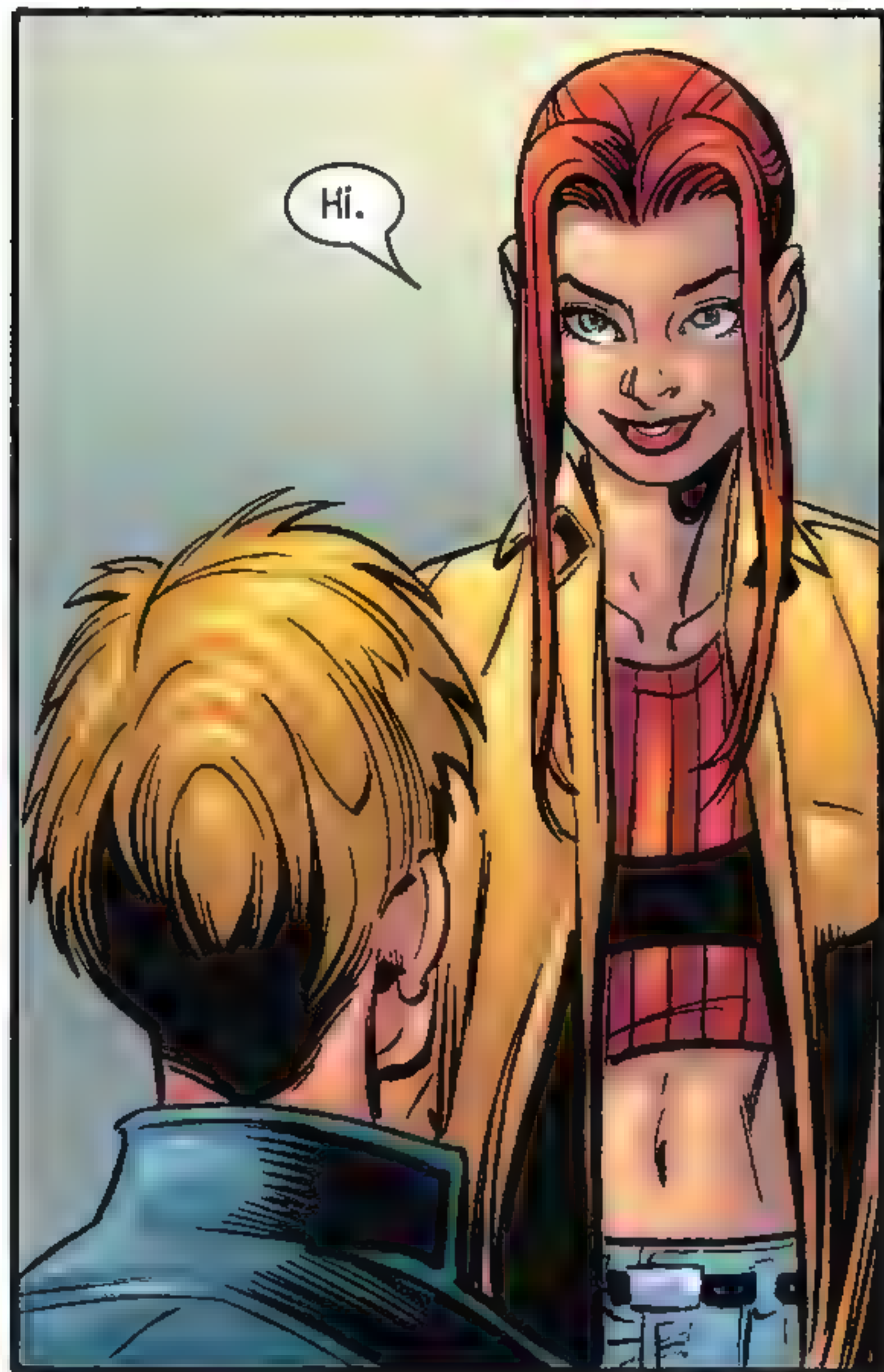


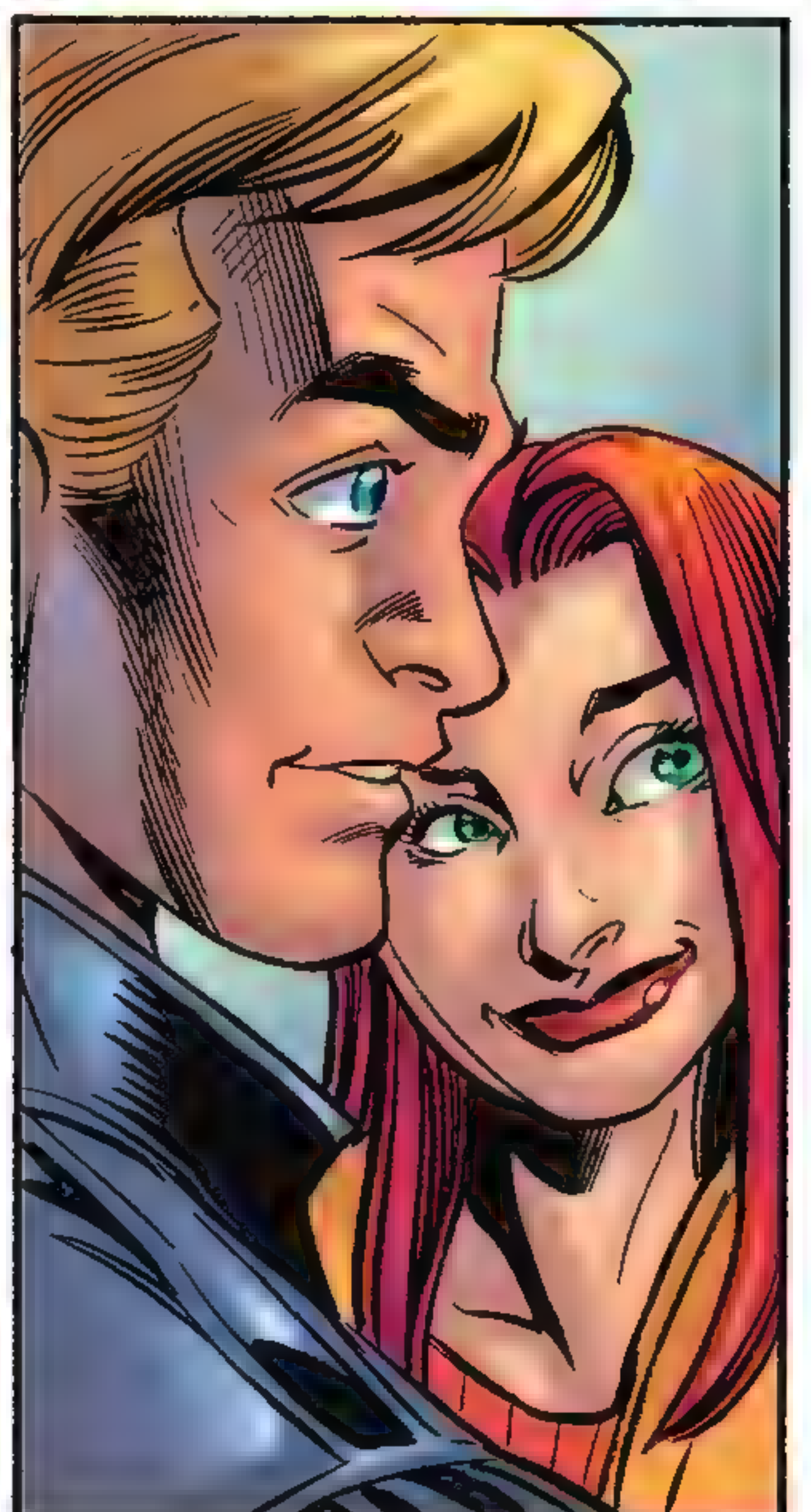
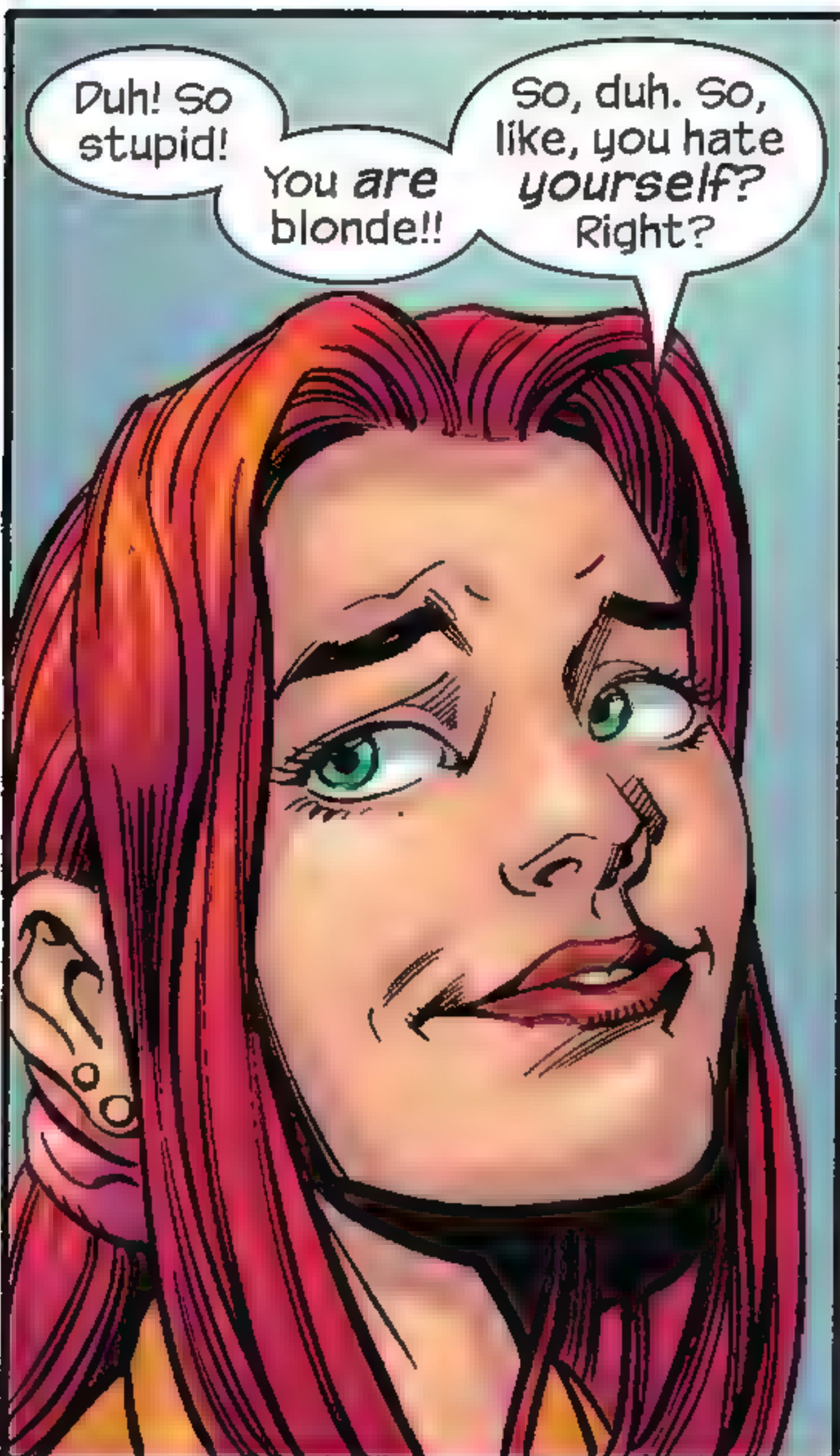
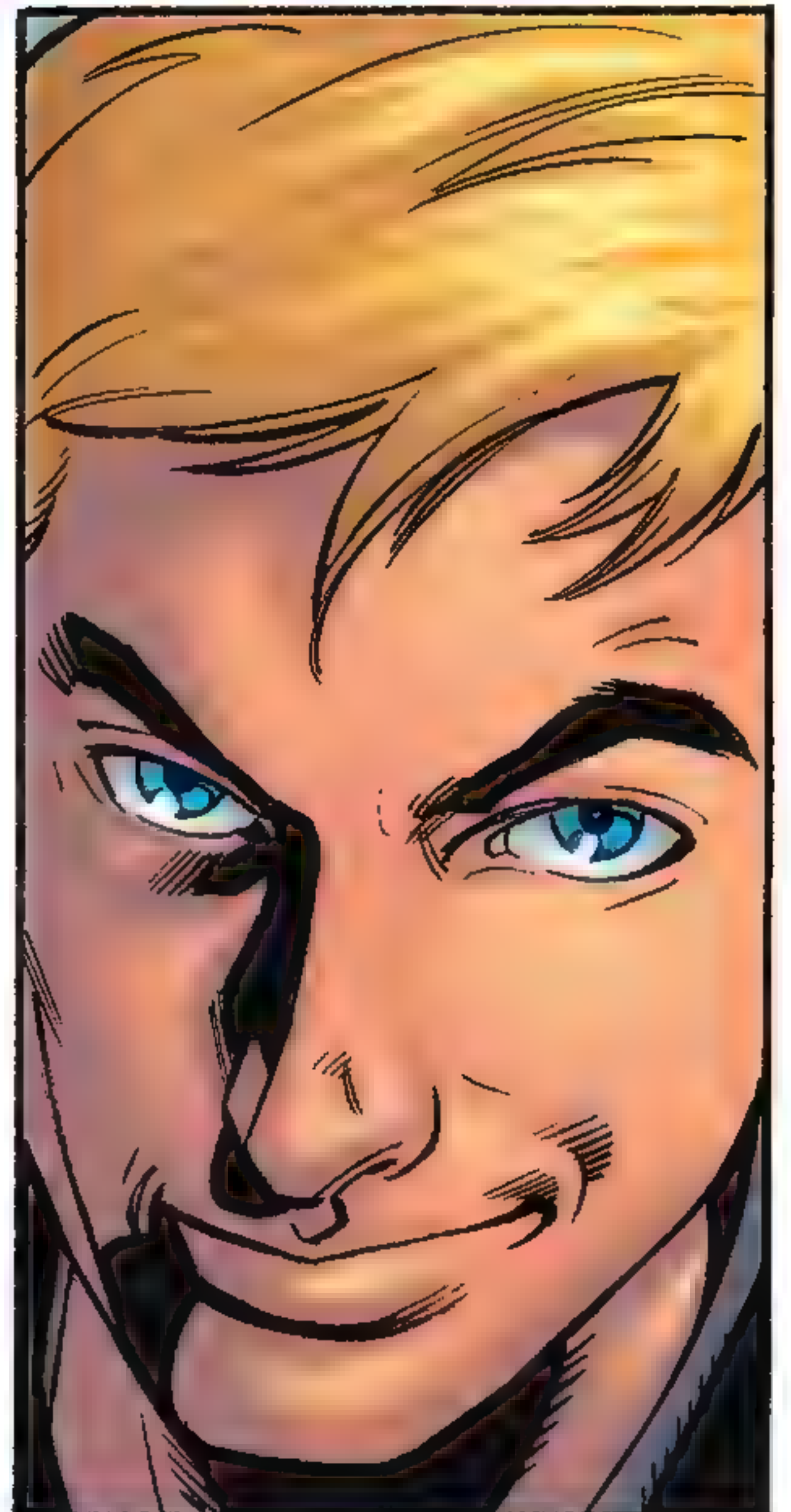


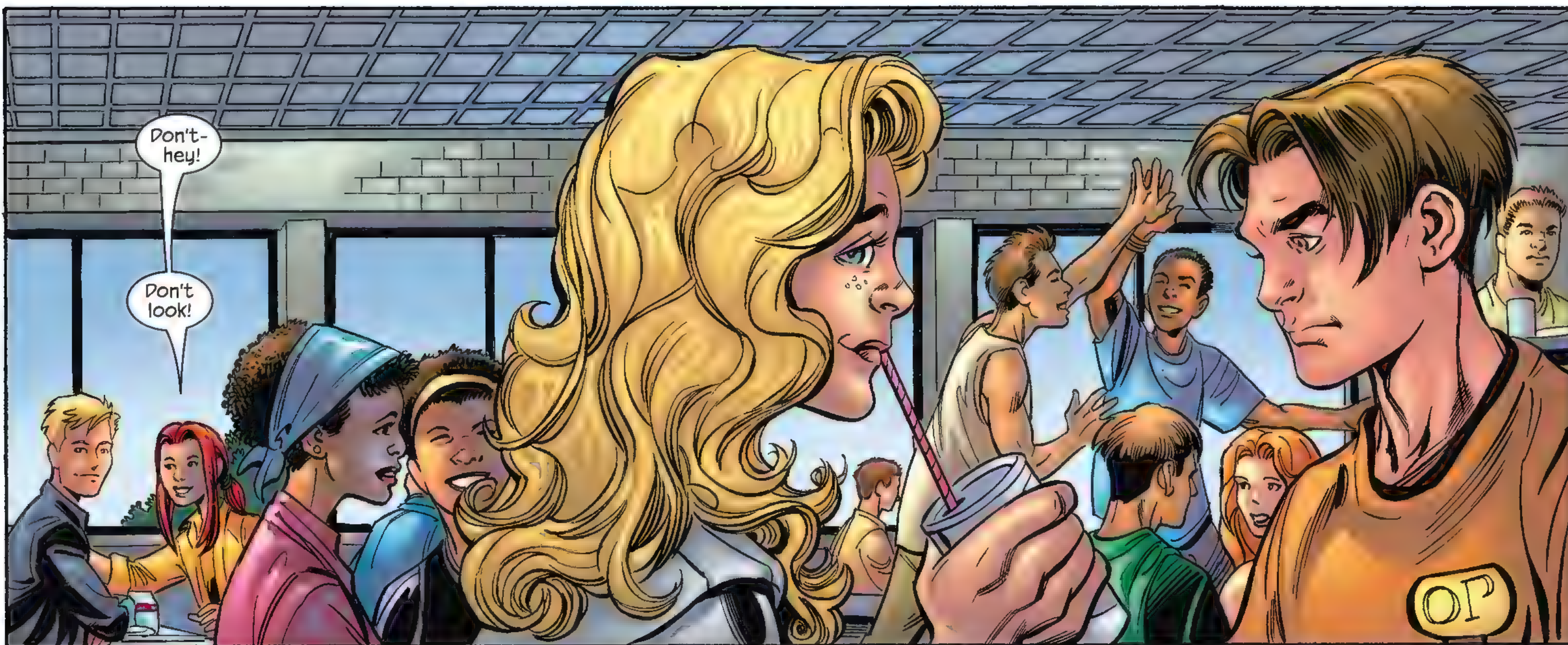






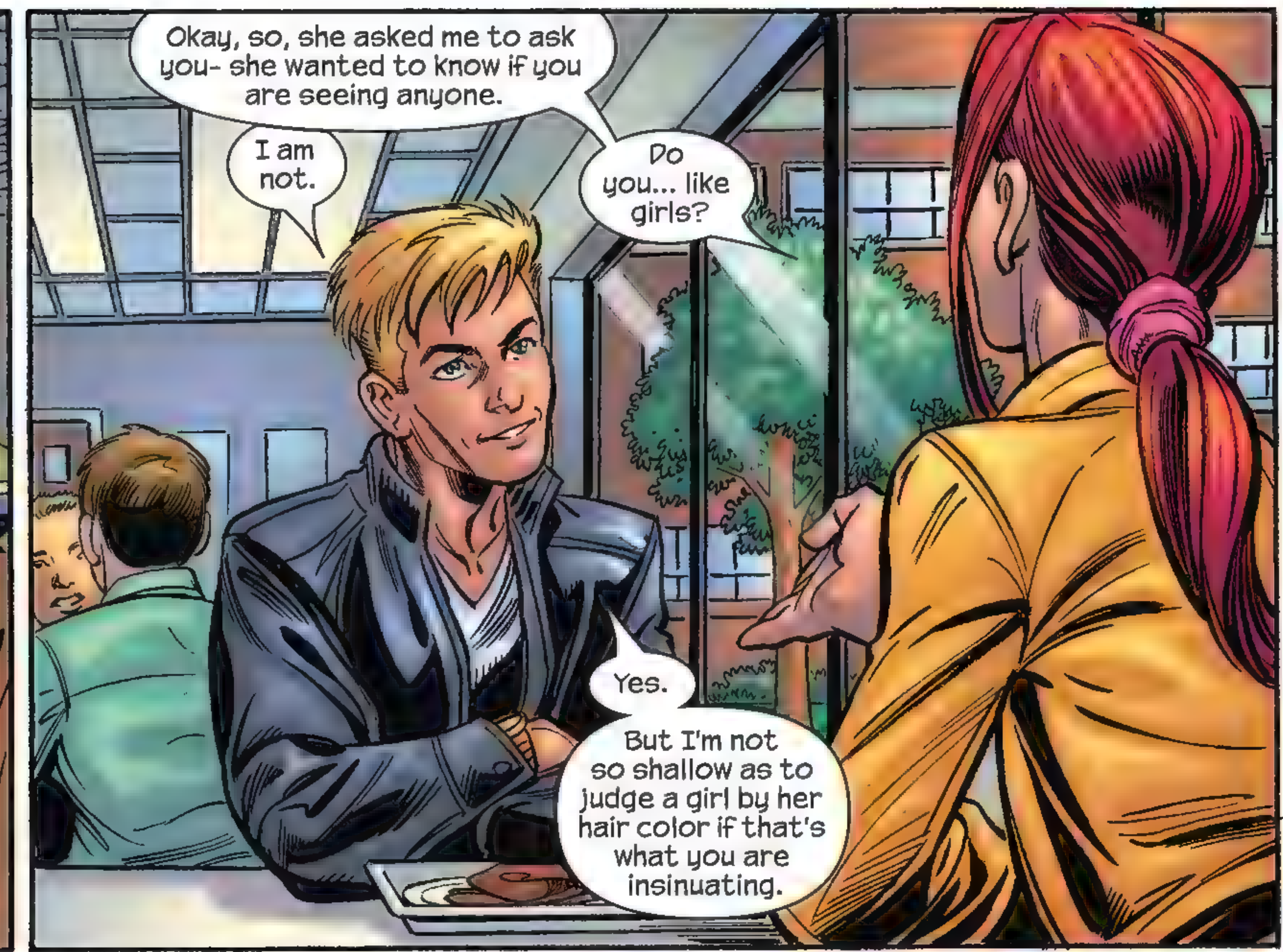






Don't-hey!

Don't look!



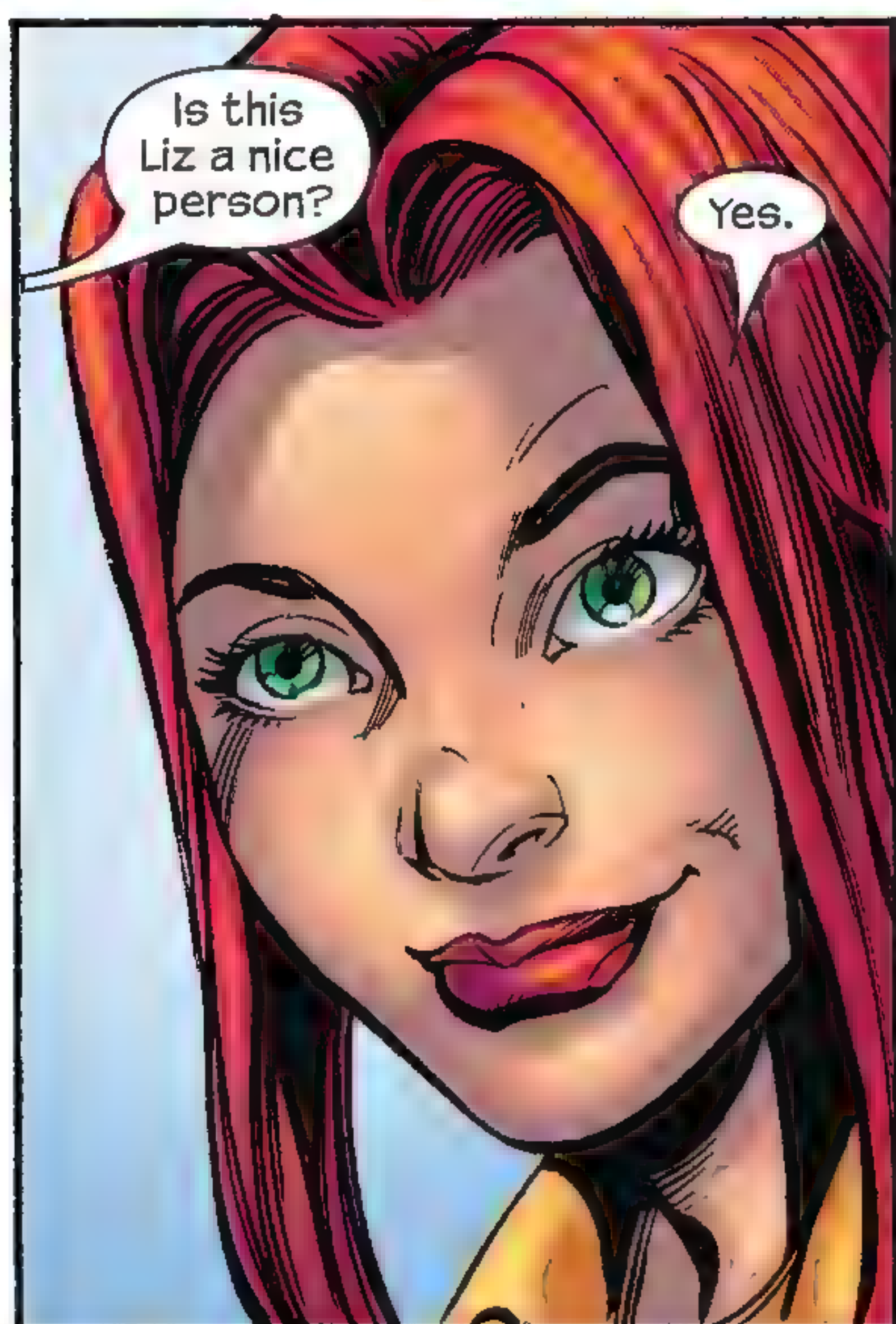
Okay, so, she asked me to ask you- she wanted to know if you are seeing anyone.

I am not.

Do you... like girls?

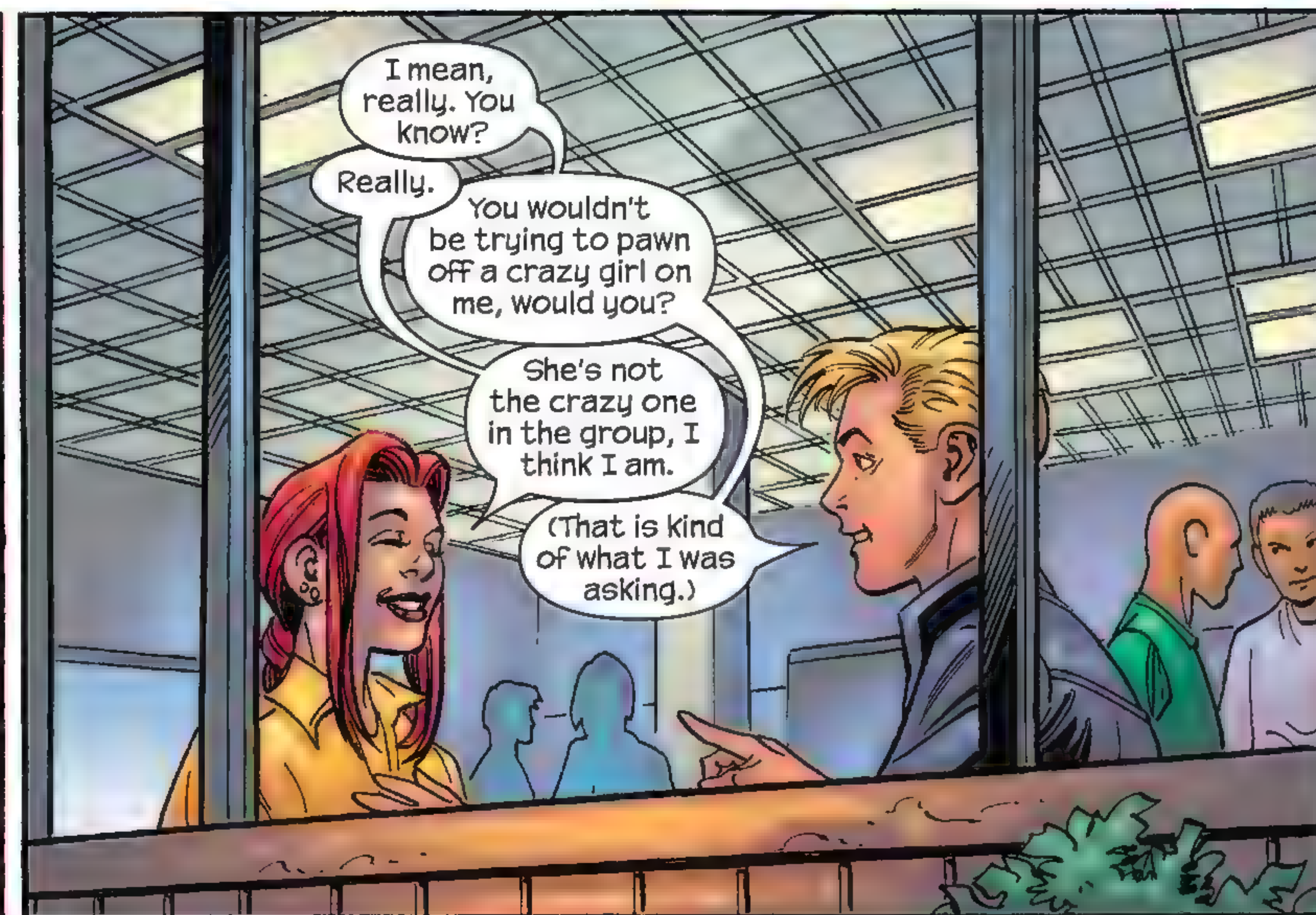
Yes.

But I'm not so shallow as to judge a girl by her hair color if that's what you are insinuating.



Is this Liz a nice person?

Yes.



I mean, really. You know?

Really.

You wouldn't be trying to pawn off a crazy girl on me, would you?

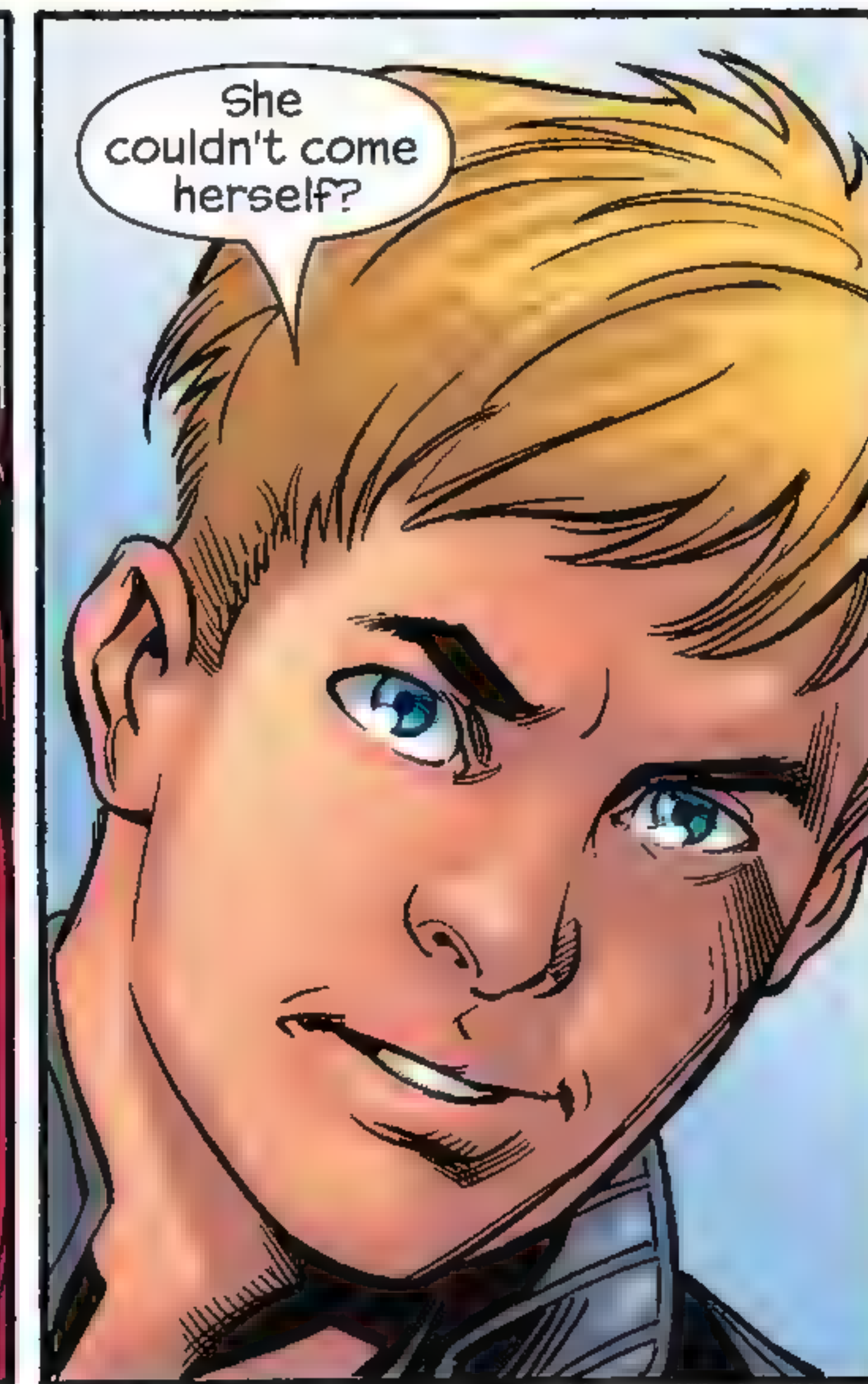
She's not the crazy one in the group, I think I am.

(That is kind of what I was asking.)

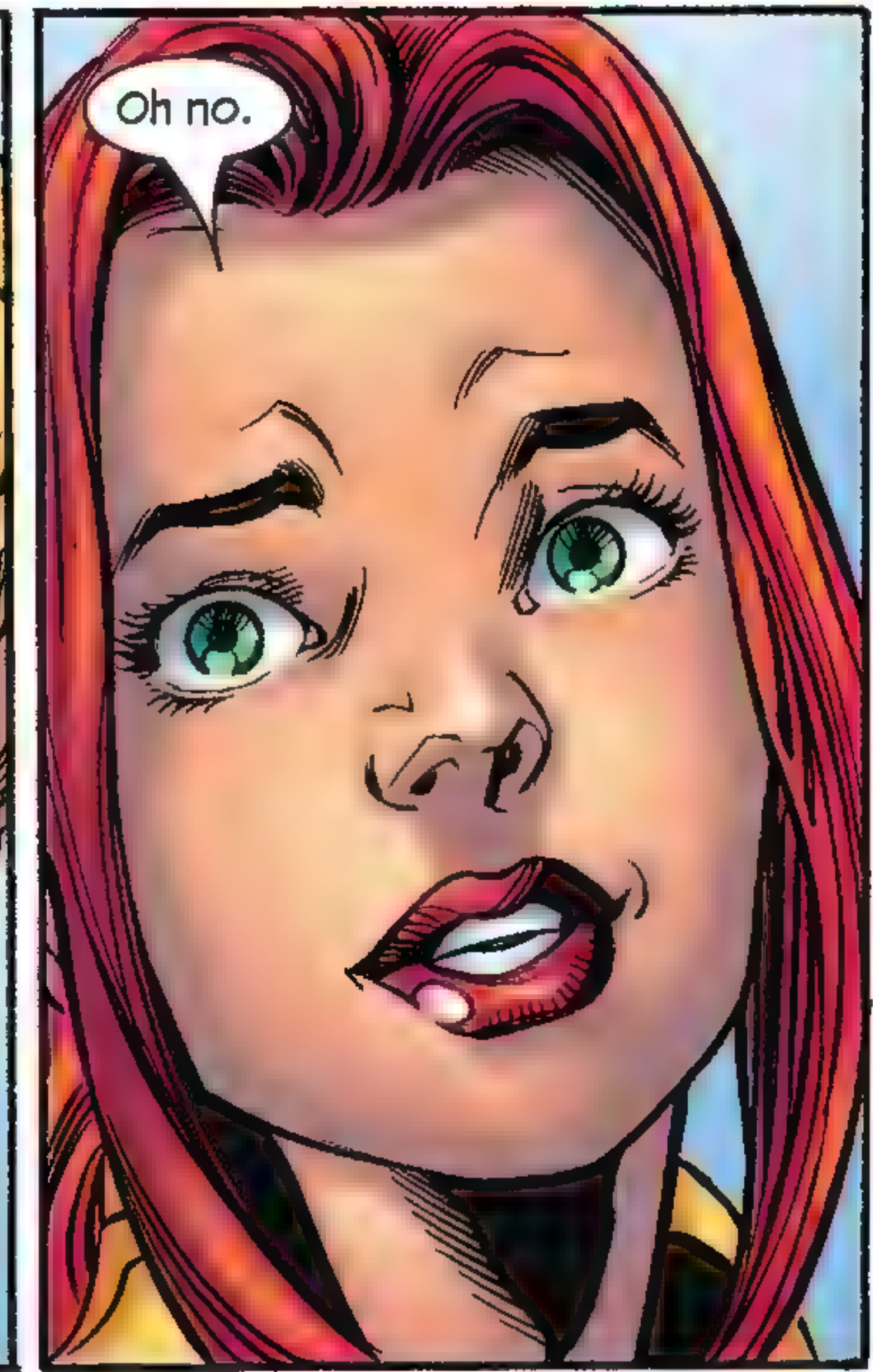


She's really smart, she's pretty (but doesn't think she is).

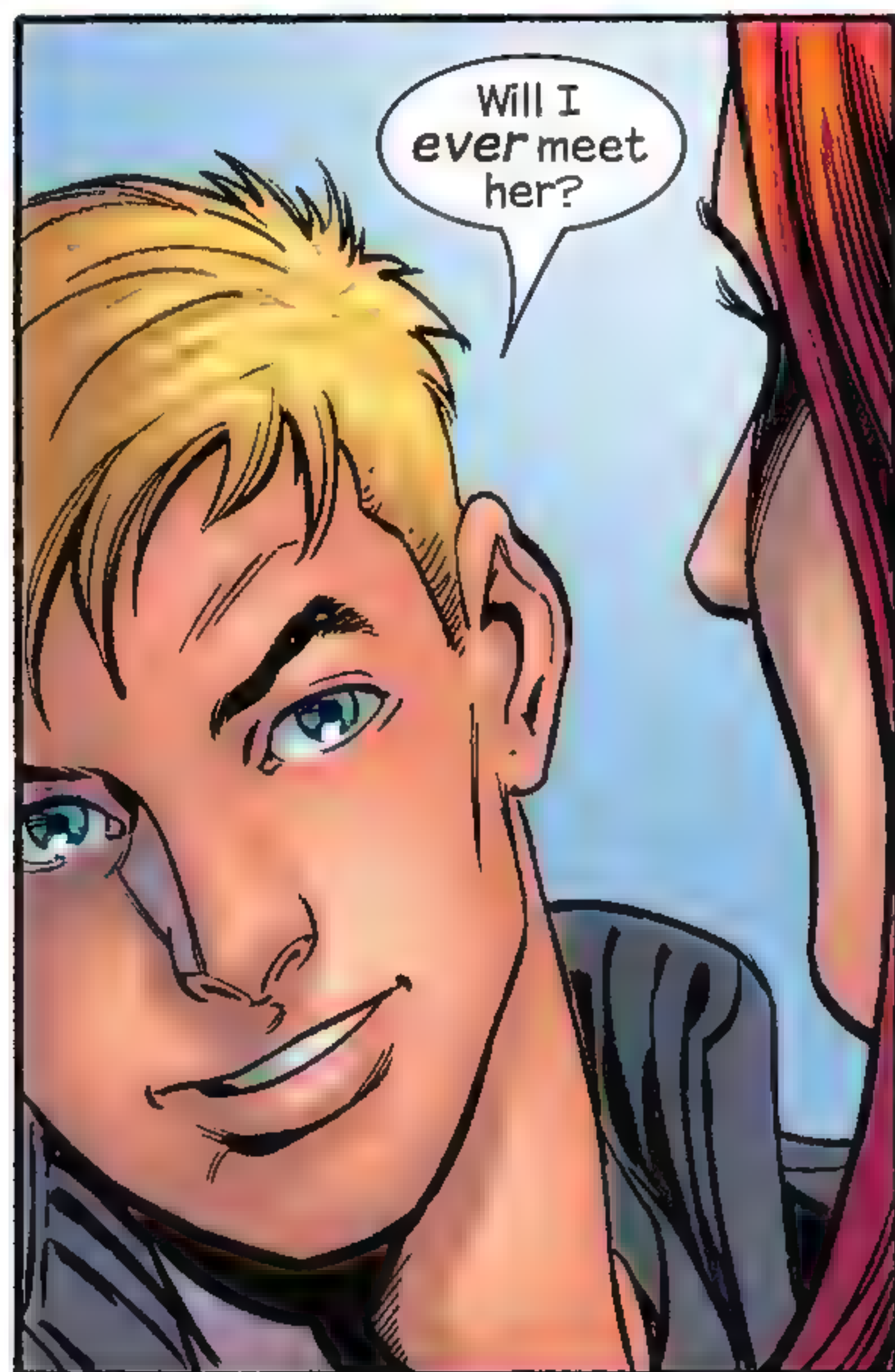
She hasn't shown any interest in a guy in a while, so I'm really happy that she liked you enough to embarrass me into coming to talk to you like this.



She couldn't come herself?



Oh no.



Will I ever meet her?

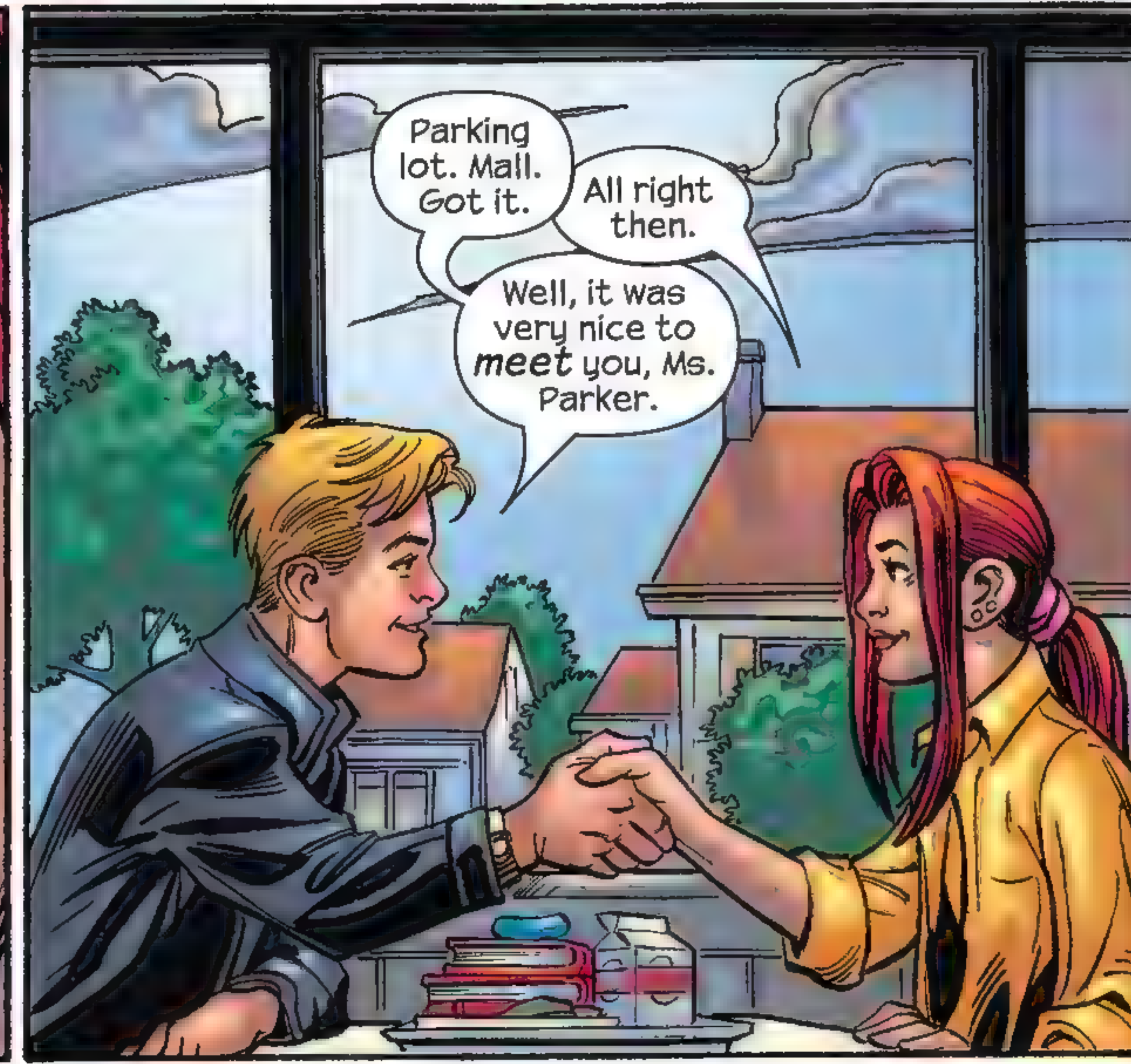
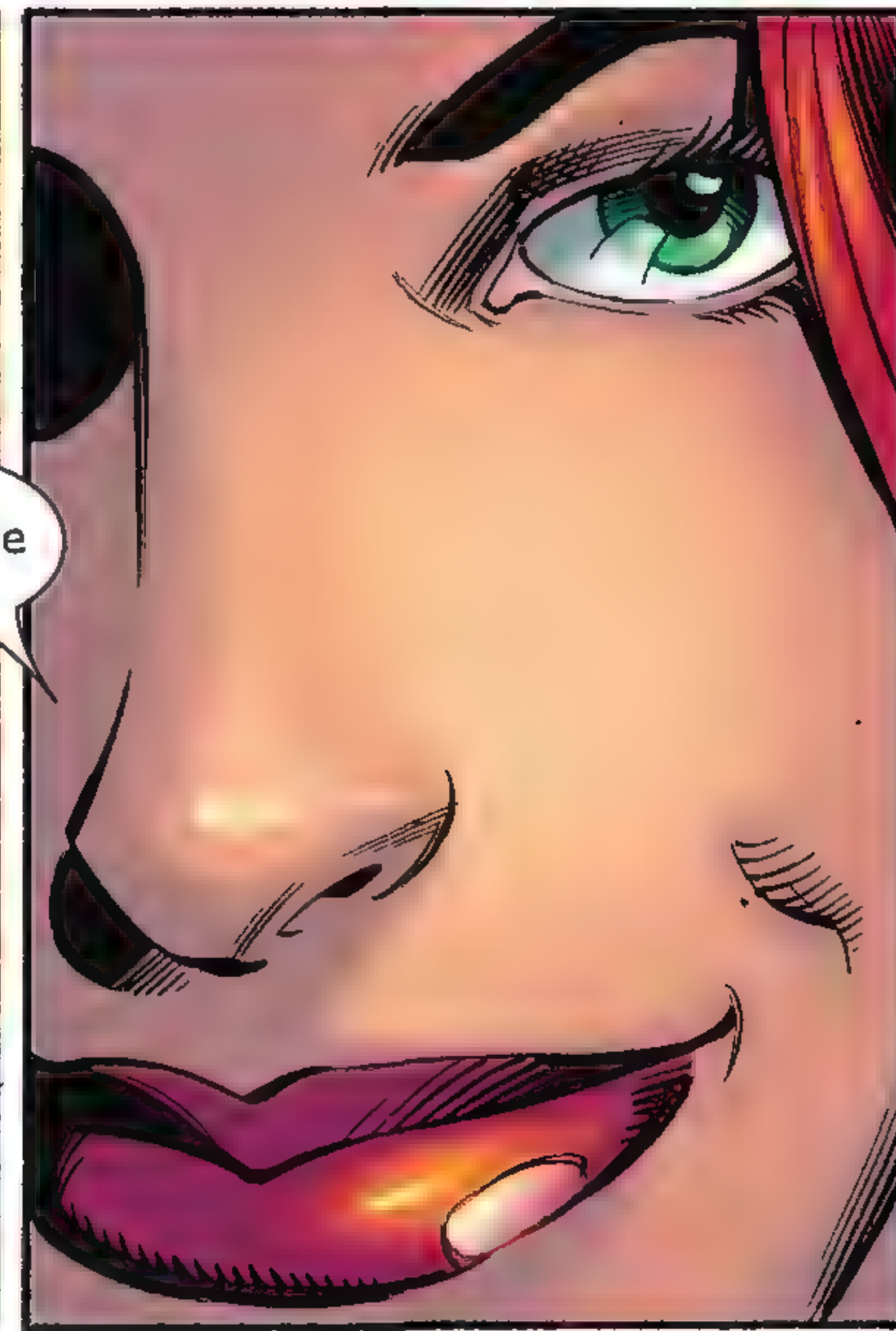


Um, we usually hang out in the parking lot after school before we eventually end up at the mall.



So if I was to show up in this parking lot you speak of...?

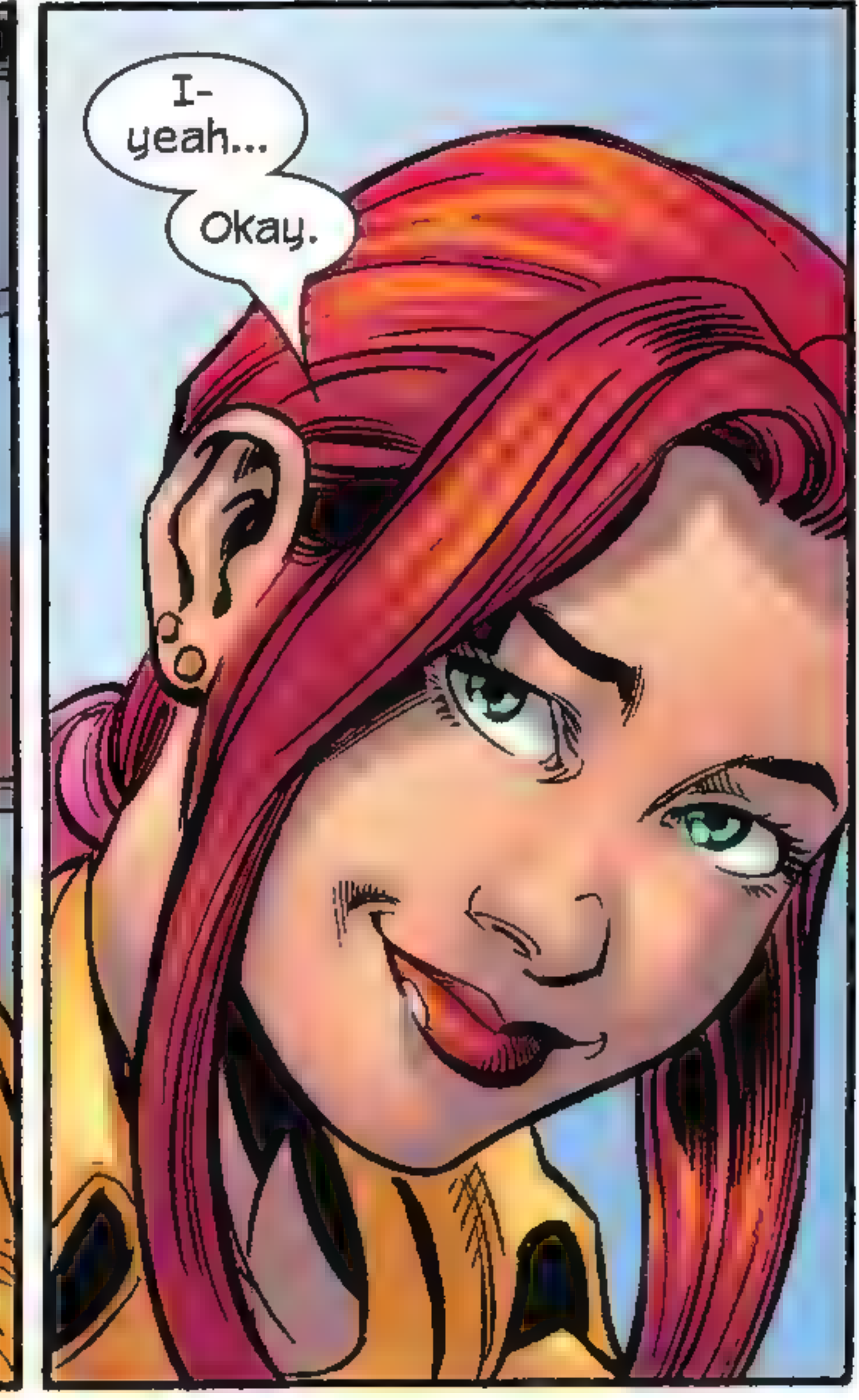
That would be nice.



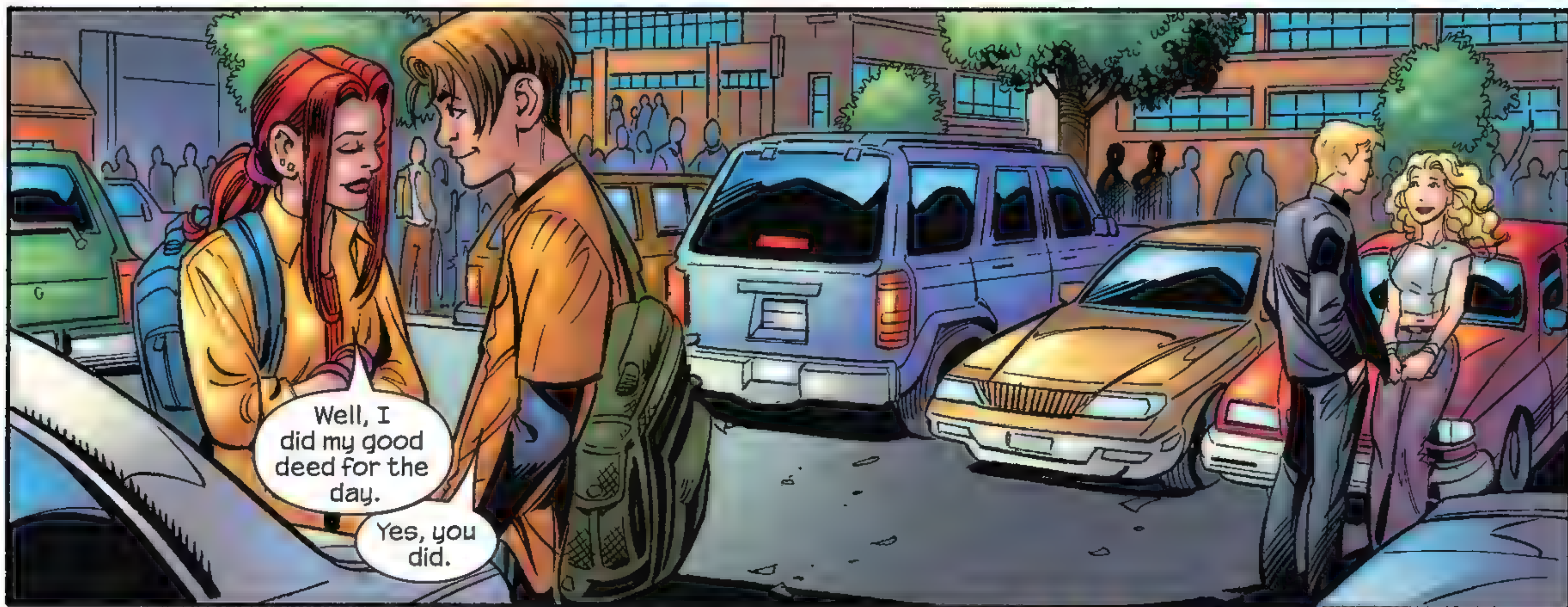
Parking lot. Mall. Got it.

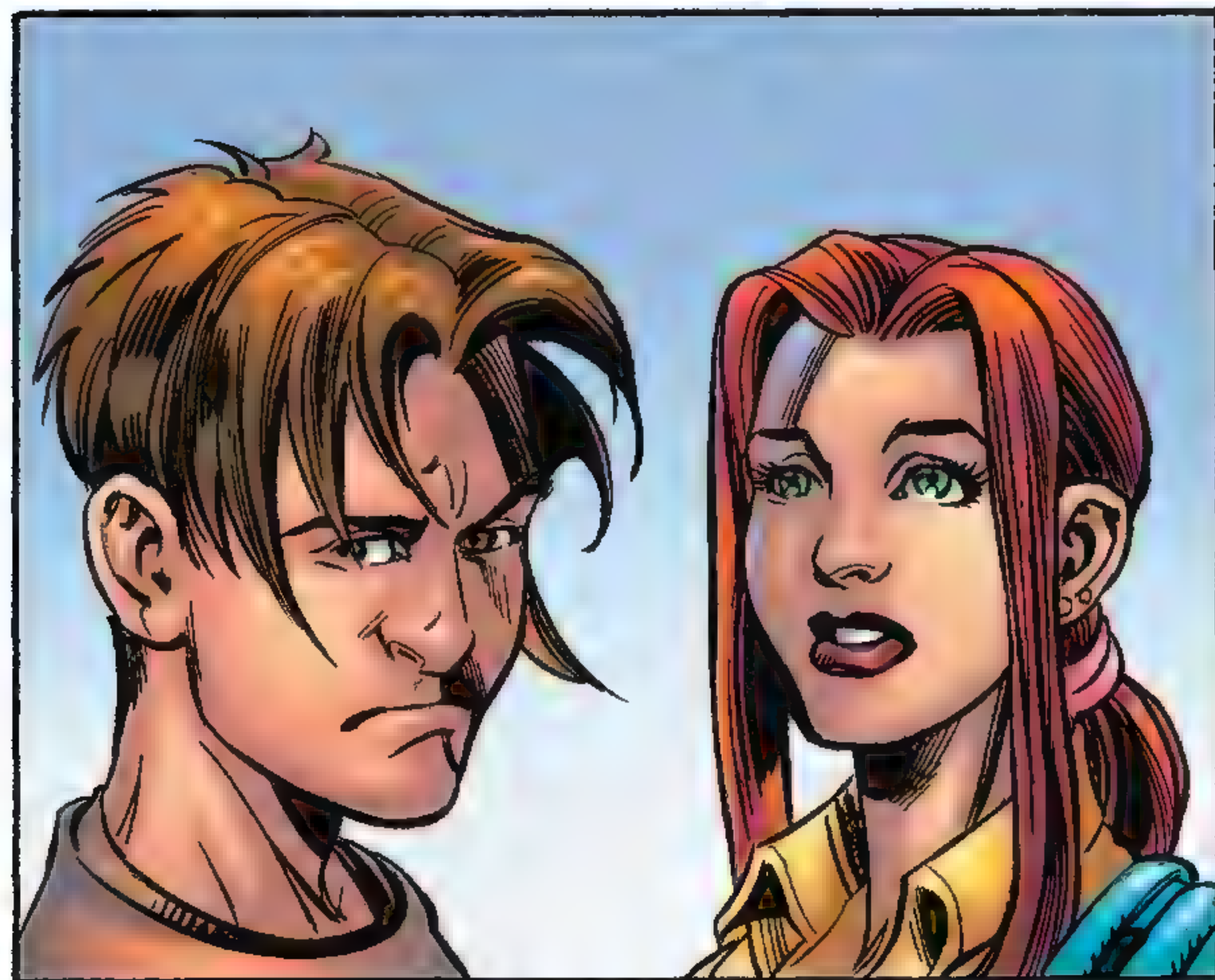
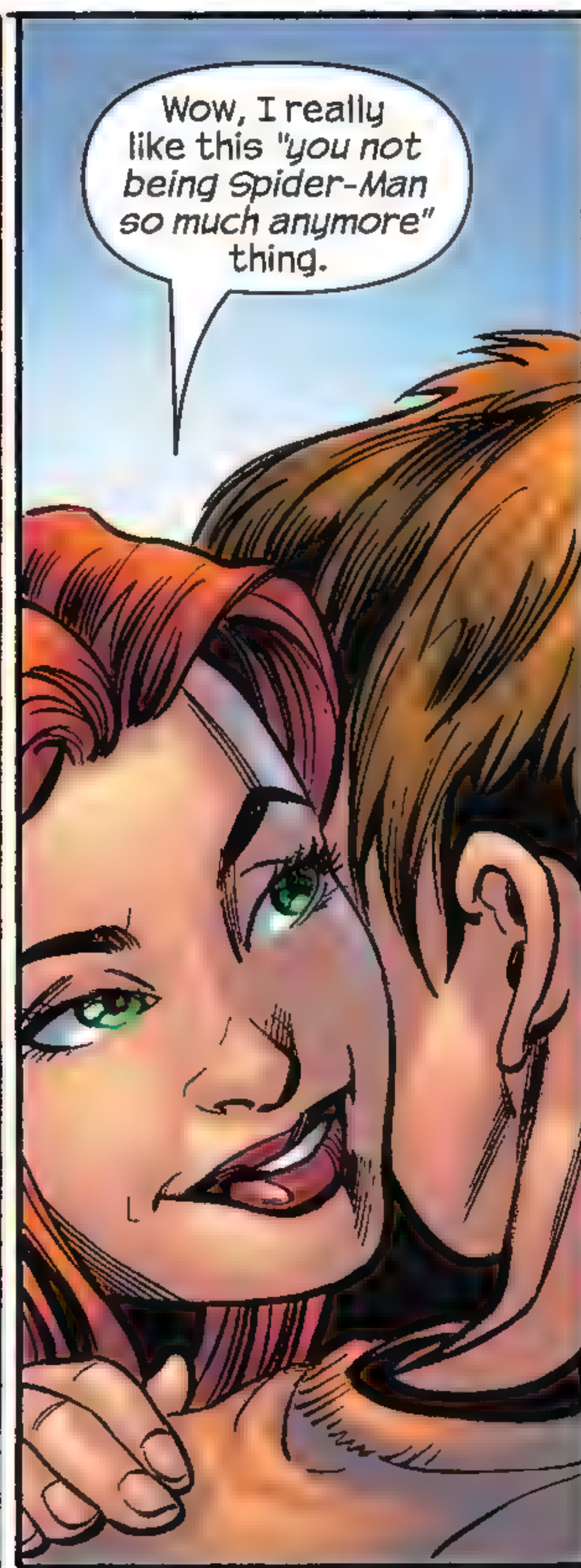
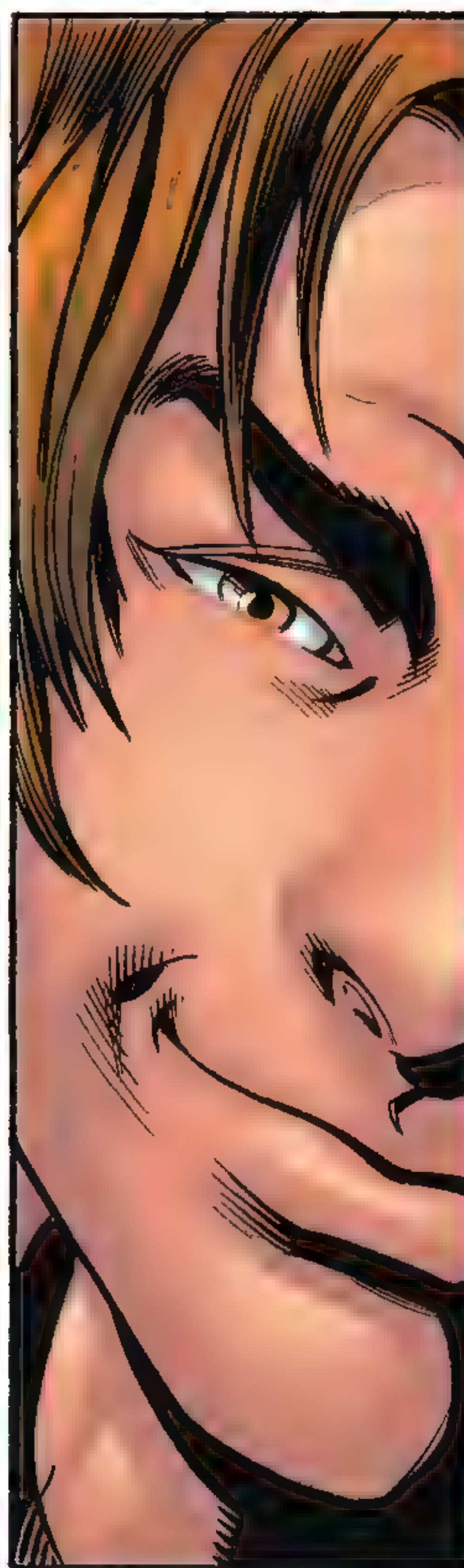
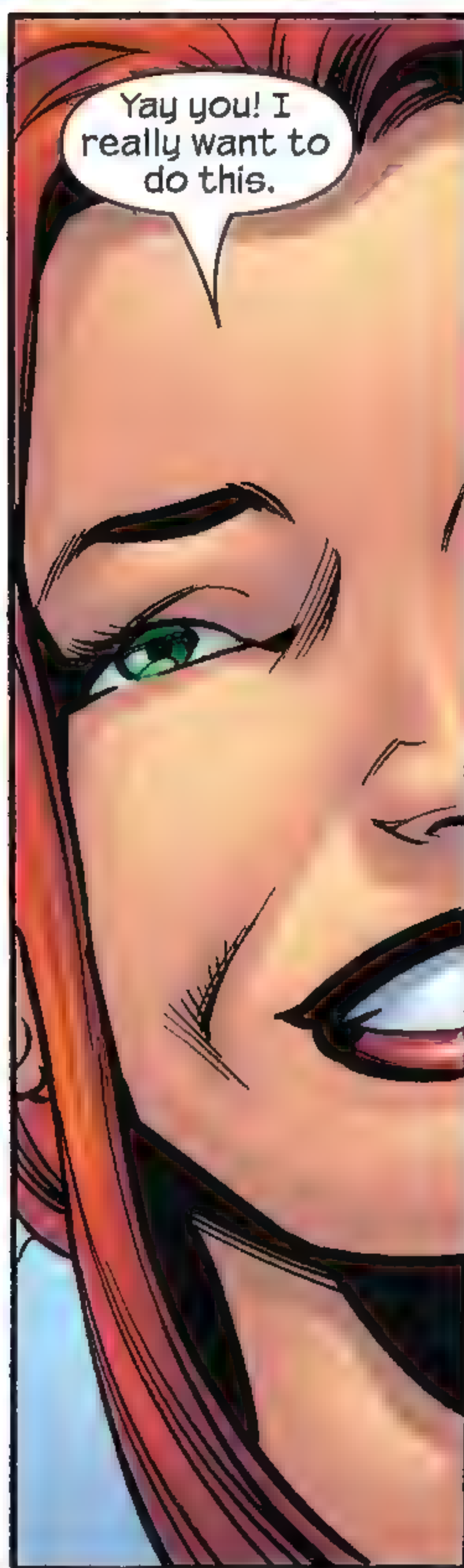
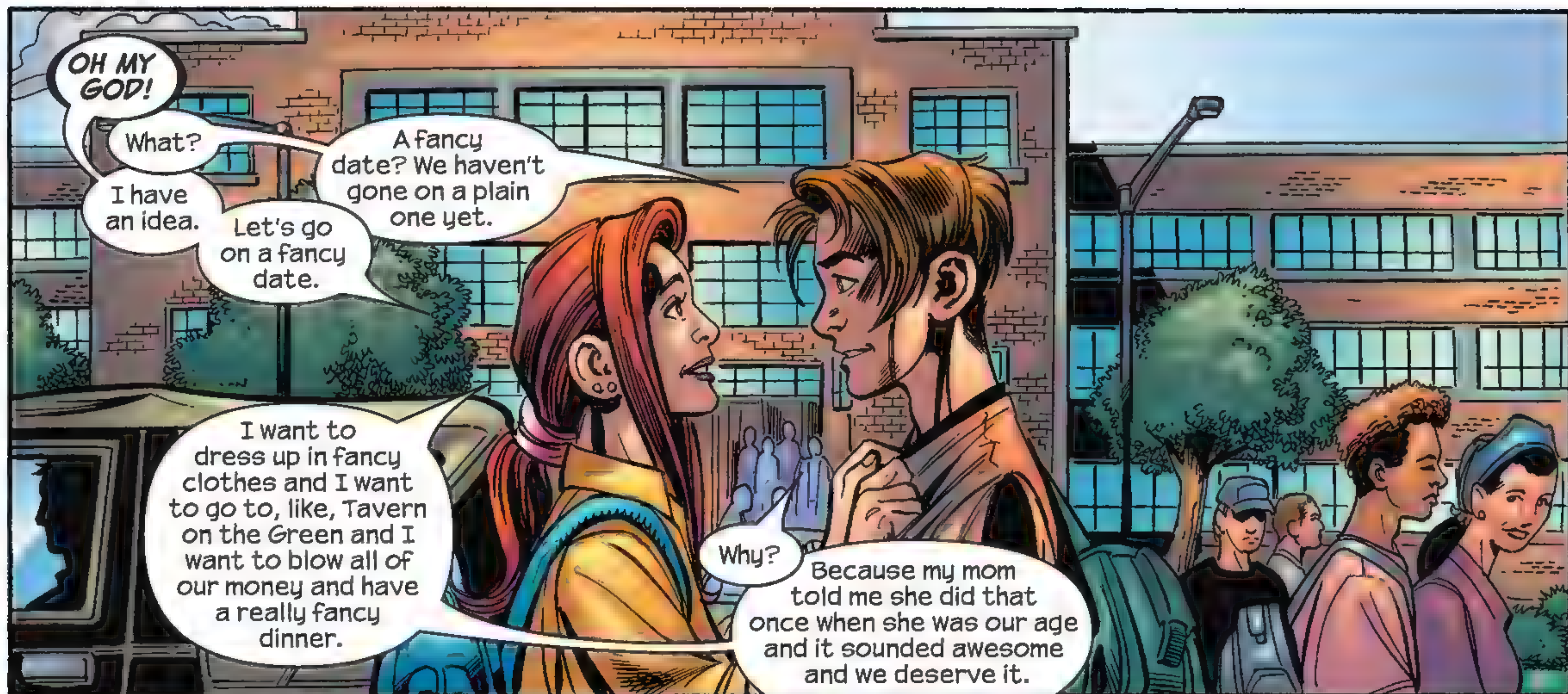
All right then.

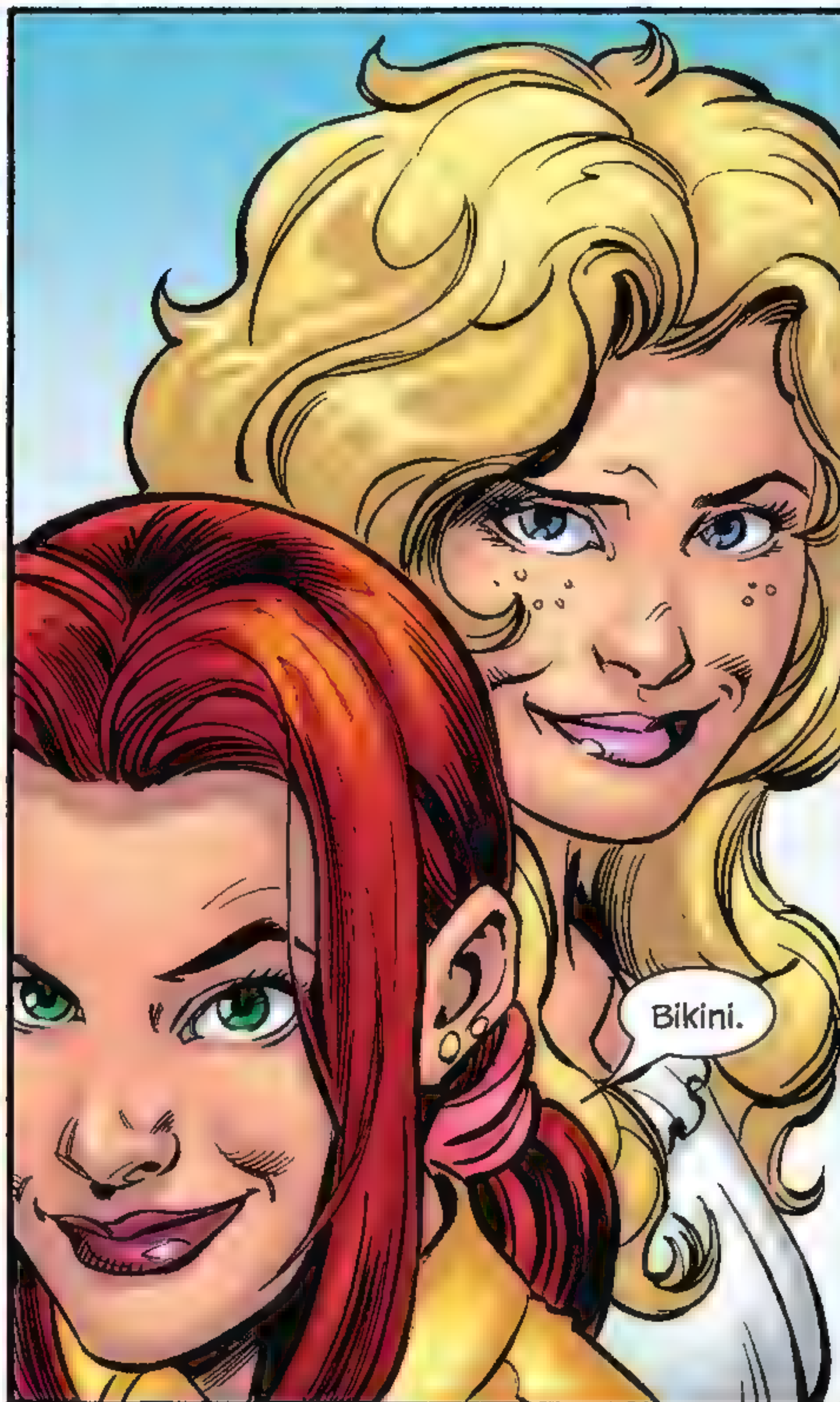
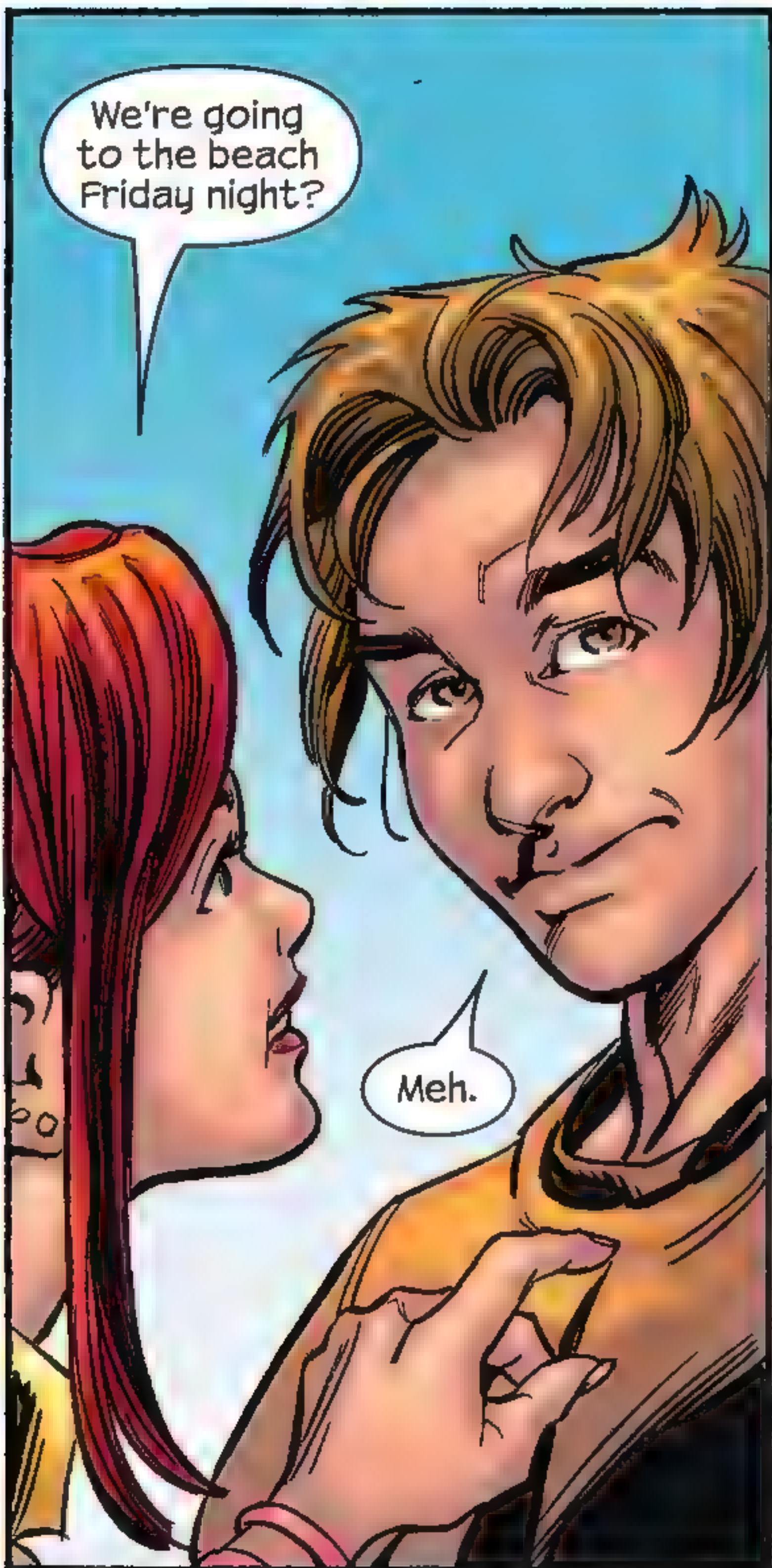
Well, it was very nice to meet you, Ms. Parker.

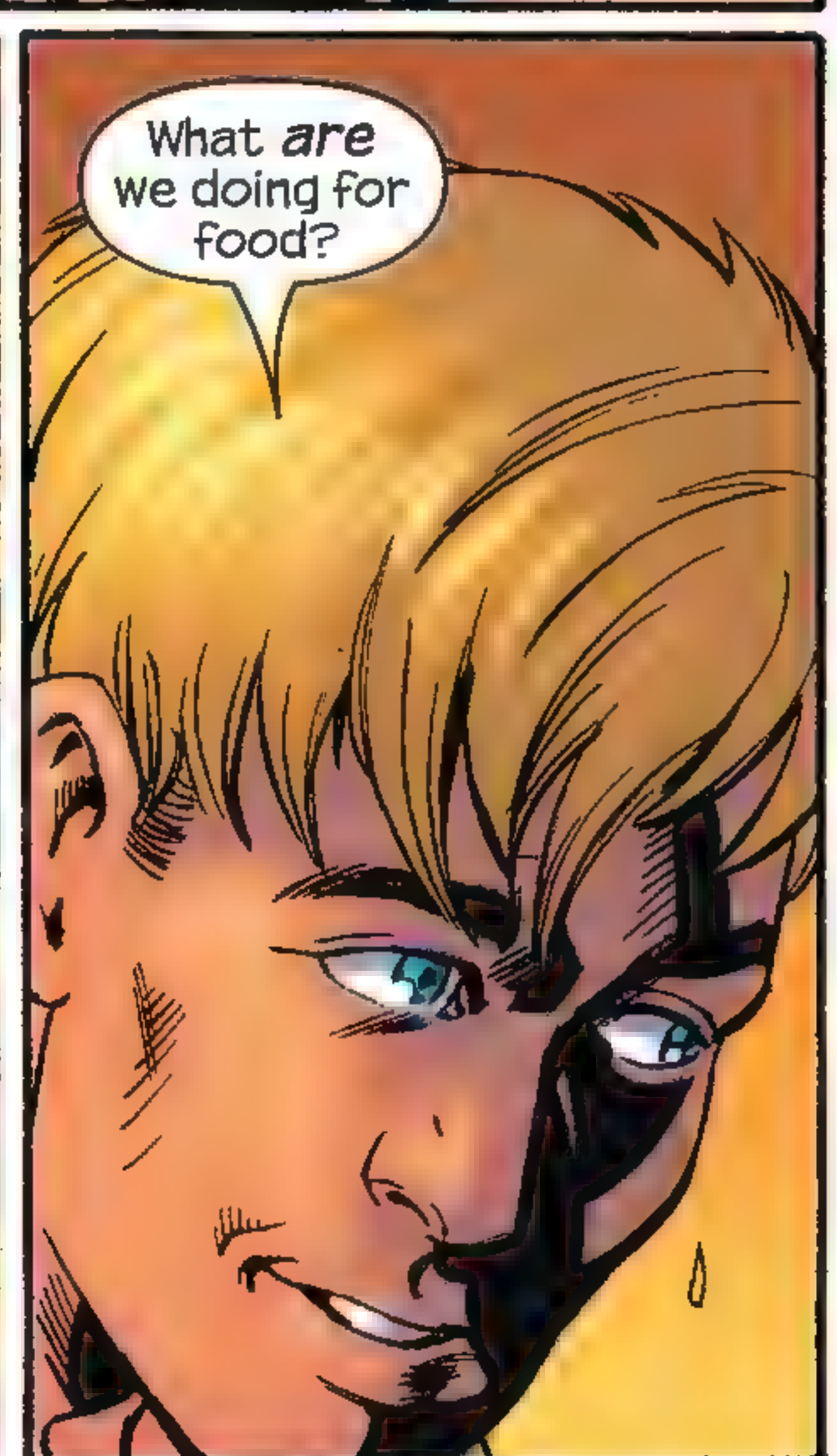
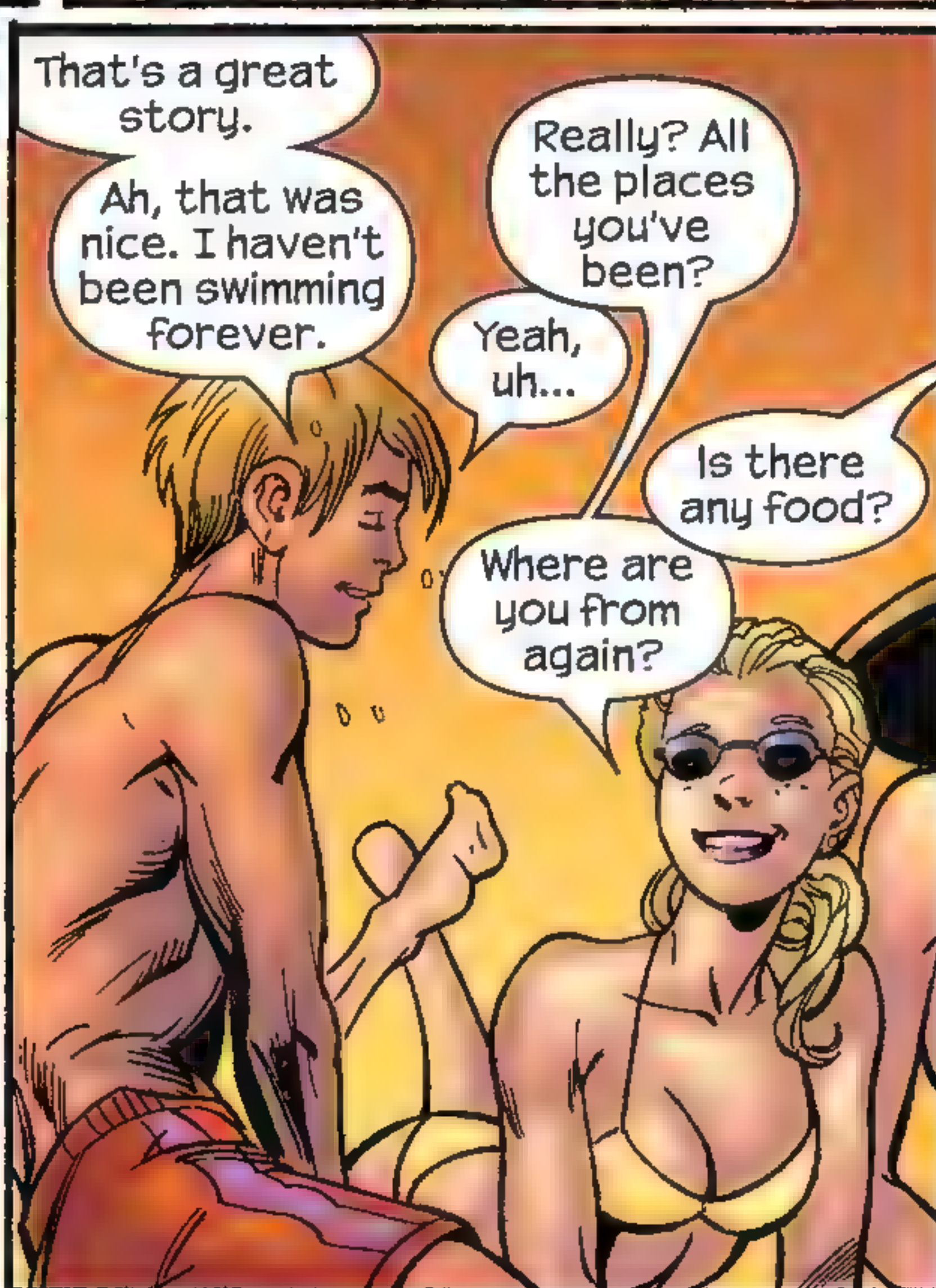
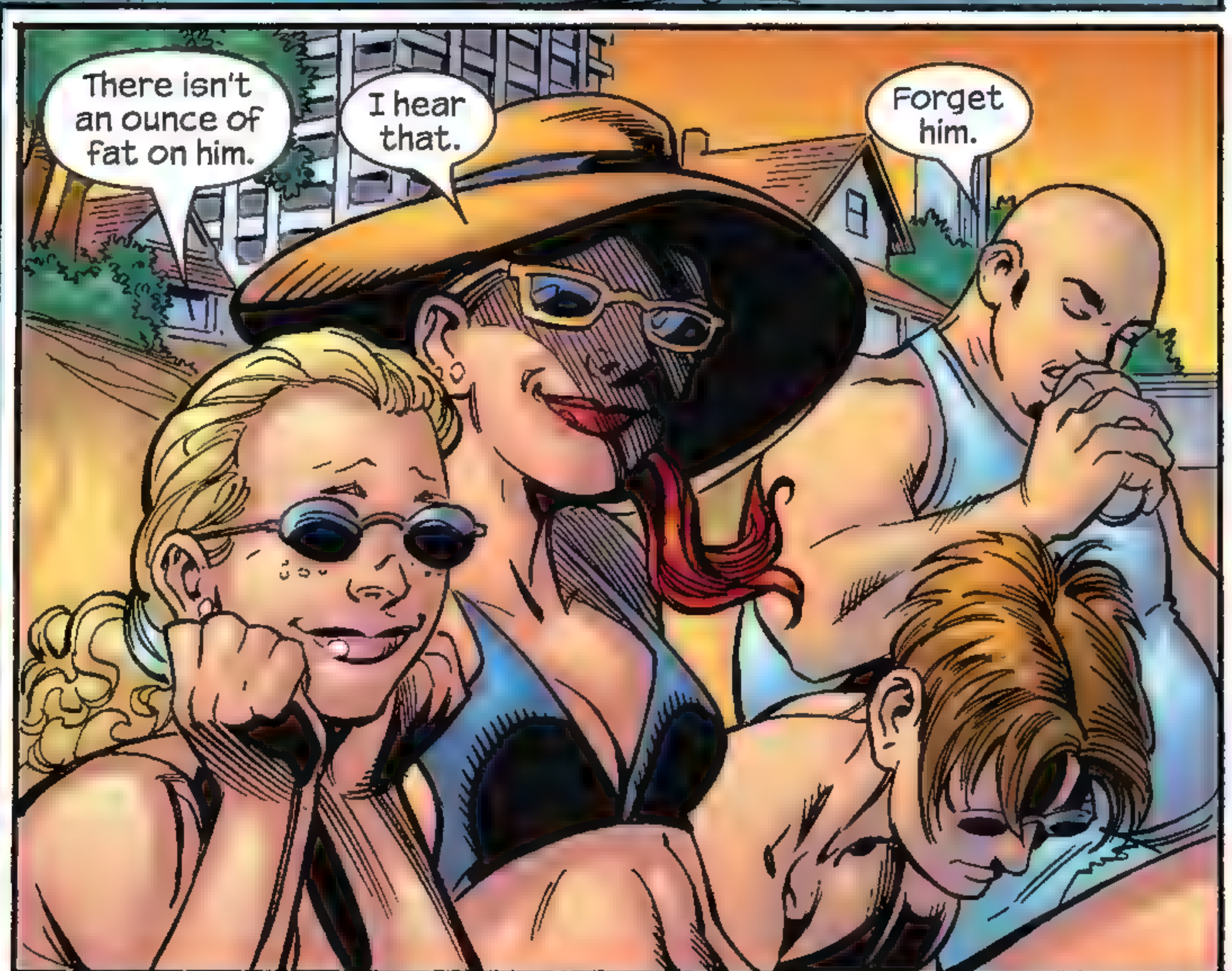
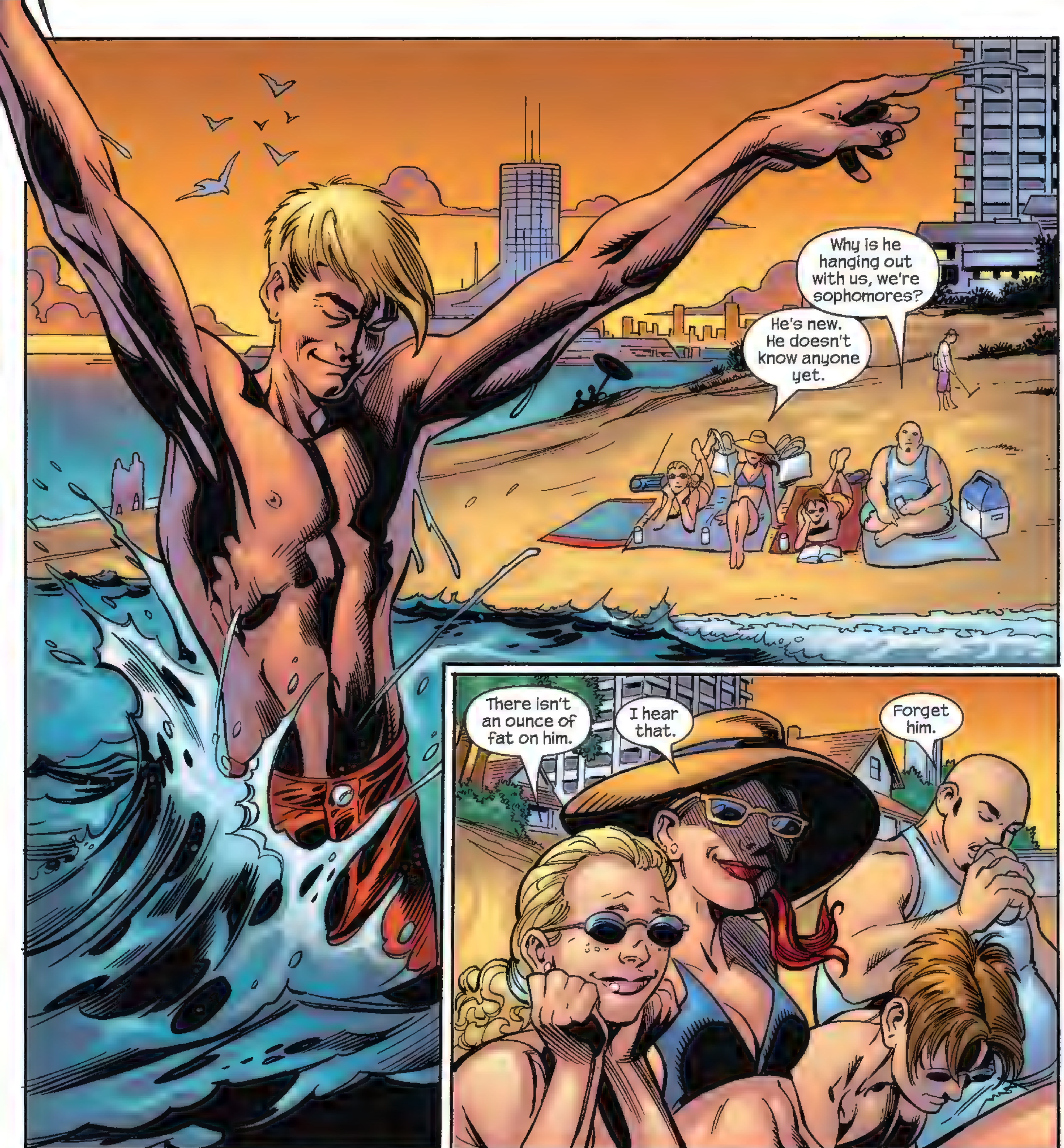


I-yeah... Okay.









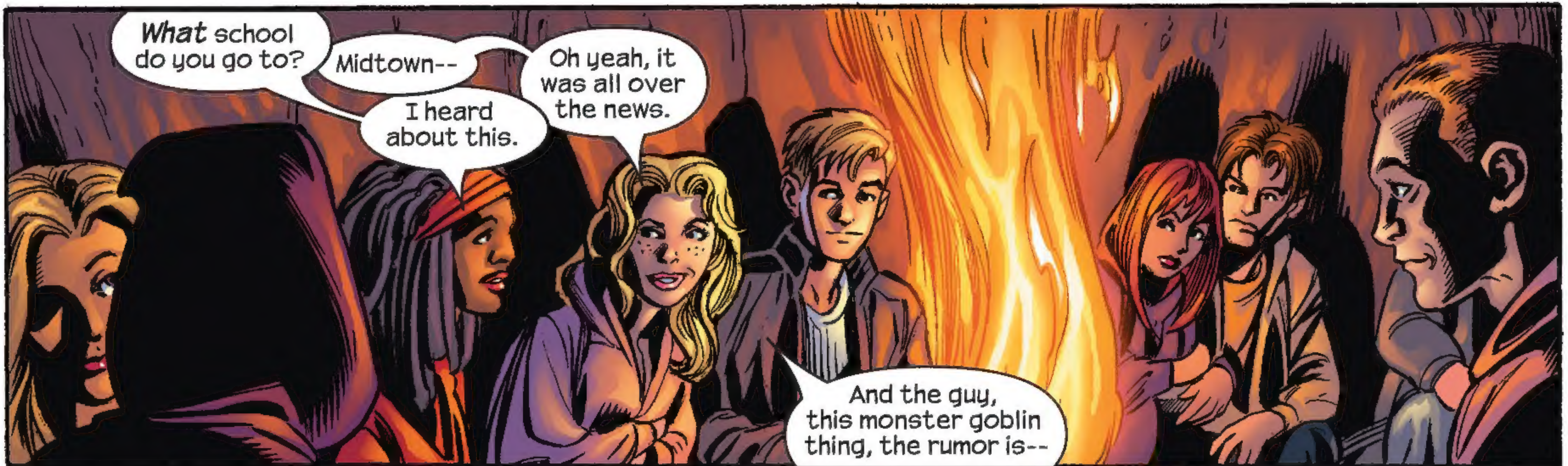


No way!

Yeah! He was like this big green... goblin.

No way!

He tore up half the school and- and then Spider-Man came in and he kicked the crap out of him!



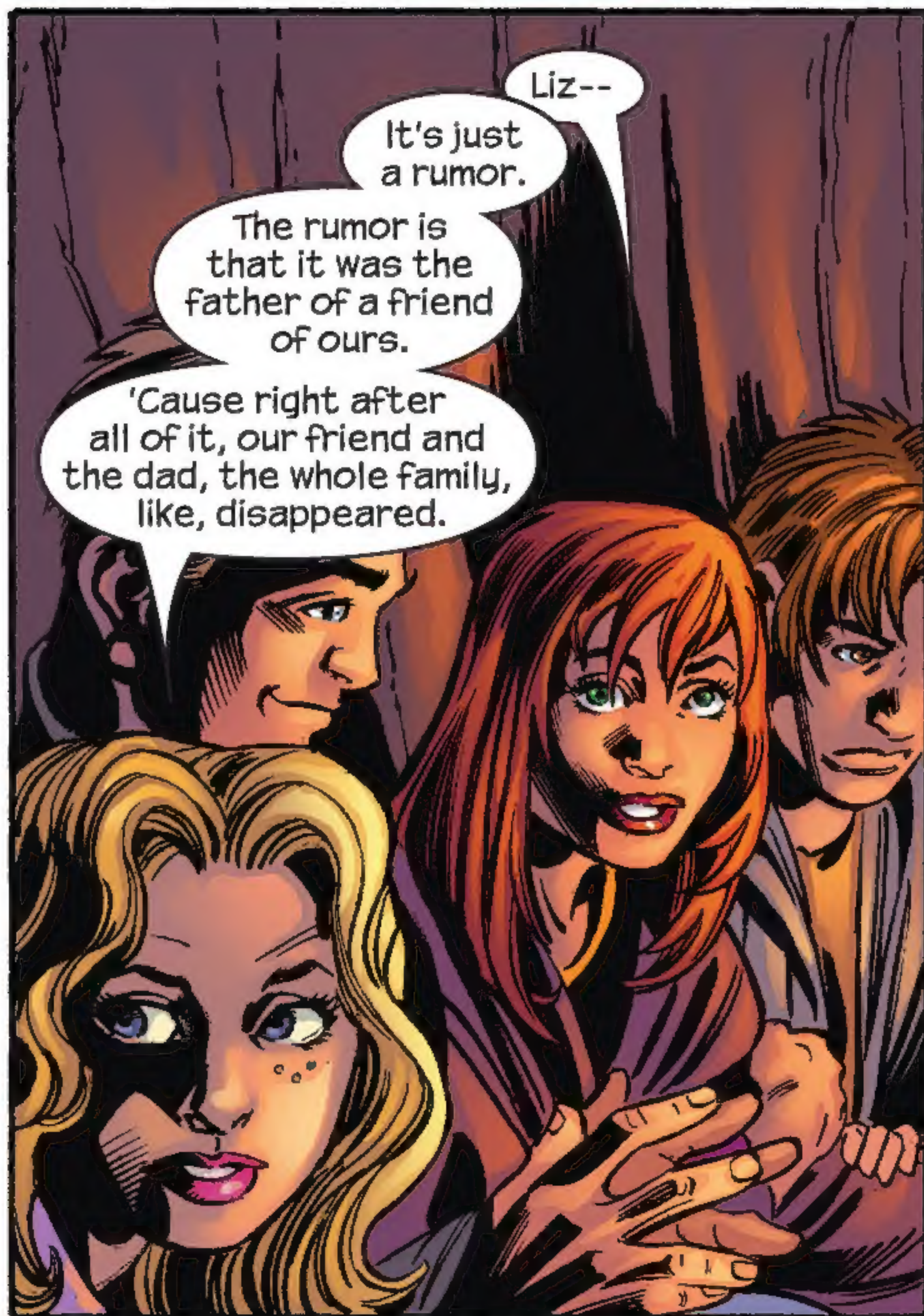
What school do you go to?

Midtown--

I heard about this.

Oh yeah, it was all over the news.

And the guy, this monster goblin thing, the rumor is--



Liz--

It's just a rumor.

The rumor is that it was the father of a friend of ours.

'Cause right after all of it, our friend and the dad, the whole family, like, disappeared.



No way!

Allegedly.

Wow.

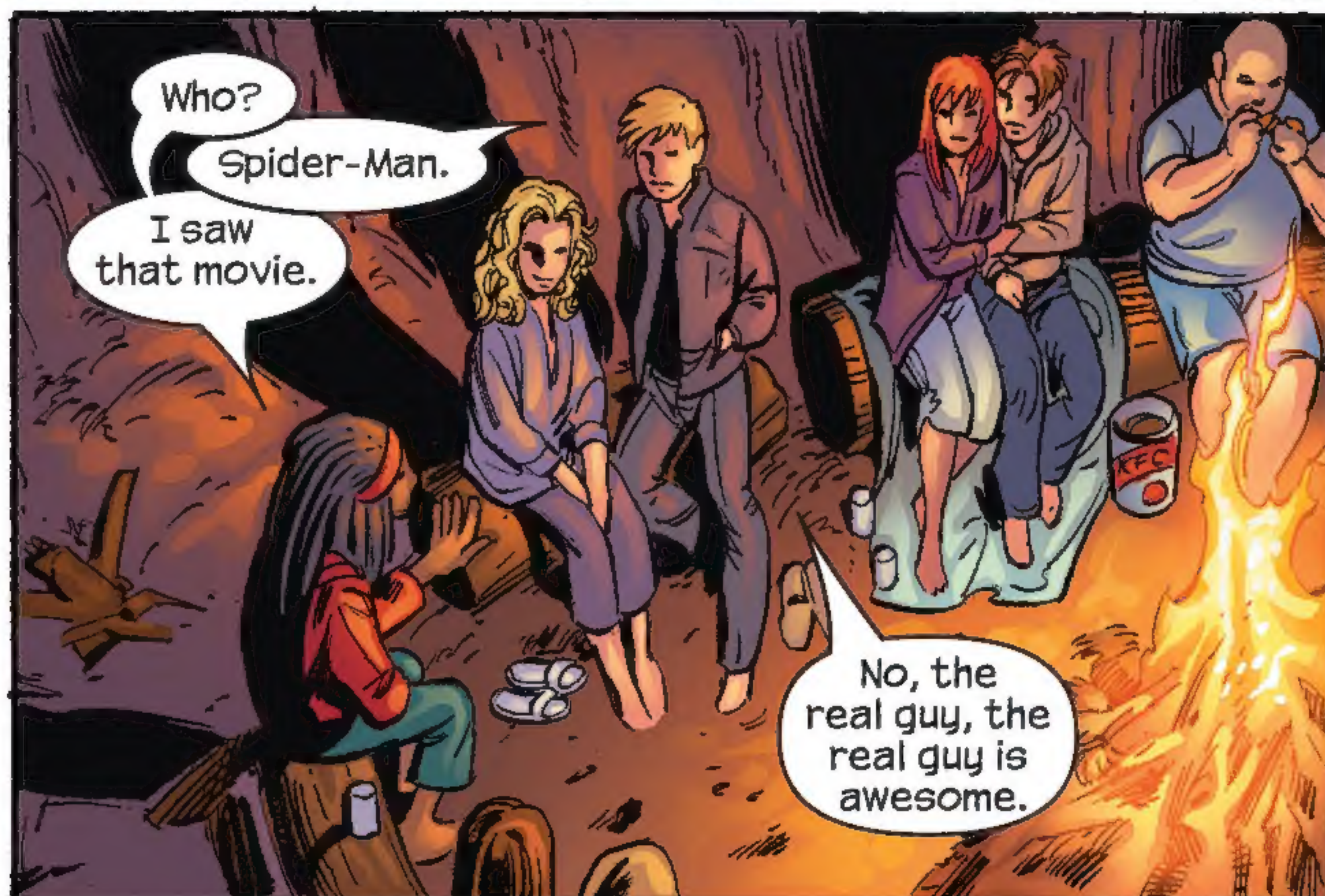
We got out of school for a week 'cause of it.



You saw Spider-Man?

Guy leaped right over my head. I saw his butt.

I love that guy.

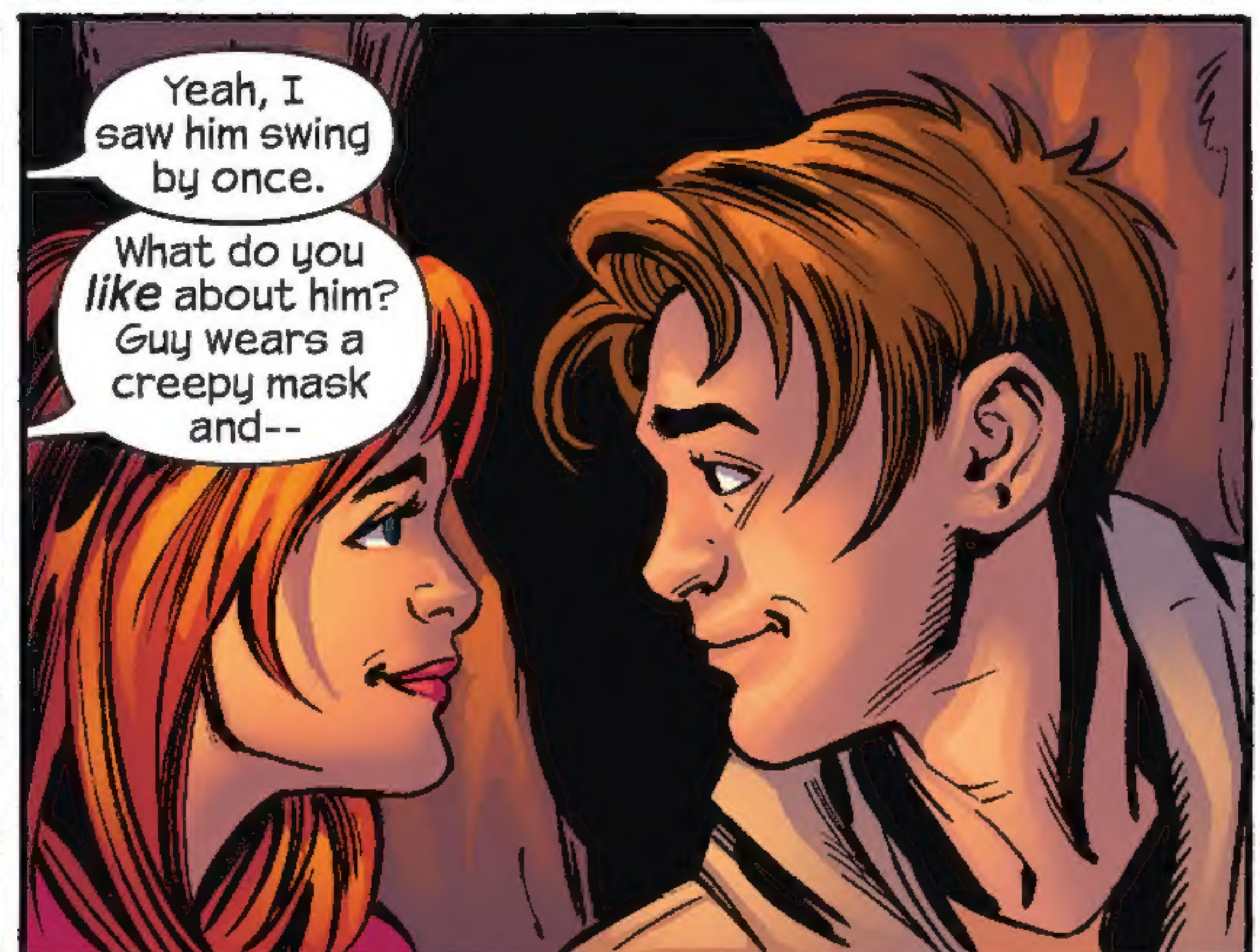


Who?

Spider-Man.

I saw that movie.

No, the real guy, the real guy is awesome.



Yeah, I saw him swing by once.

What do you like about him? Guy wears a creepy mask and--





Uh...
I can
explain
this.



SON OF

VULTURON